

Upcoming Events

- Rabies Clinic
May 5, 10 a.m.-Noon
Ardmore Area Office
Ardmore, Okla.
(580) 226-4821
- Rabies Clinic
May 5, 10 a.m.-Noon
Enos Community Center
Kingston, Okla.
(580) 371-9512
- Broadway on Broadway
May 5-6
Ada Cougar Activity Center
Ada, Okla.
(580) 272-5520
- Chickasha Ittifama
(Chickasaw Reunion)
May 5-6
Kullihoma
(580) 622-7140
- GOURDget Class
May 9, 6:30-8 p.m.
Arts & Humanities Building
Ada
(580) 272-5520
- Mary Ruth Barnes Art Class
May 10, 1:30-4:30 p.m.
ARTesian Gallery & Studios
Sulphur, Okla.
(580) 622-8040
- Rabies Clinic
May 10, 10 a.m.-Noon
Landscaping Facility, Ada
(580) 436-7256
- Rabies Clinic
May 10, 10 a.m.-Noon
Sulphur Area Office
Sulphur
(580) 622-2888
- ‘The Importance of Being Earnest’
May 11-13
Arts & Humanities Building
Ada
(580) 272-5520
- Rabies Clinic
May 12, 10 a.m.-Noon
Tishomingo Area Office
Tishomingo, Okla.
(580) 371-9512
- Discovering the Beauty of Still Life Art Class
May 12-14, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Arts & Humanities Building
Ada
(580) 272-5520
- Mother's Day Celebration
May 13-14
Chickasaw Cultural Center
Sulphur
(580) 622-7130
- GOURDget Class
May 16, 2-4 p.m.
ARTesian Gallery & Studios
Sulphur
(580) 272-5520
- Rabies Clinic
May 16, 10 a.m.-Noon
Duncan Area Office
Duncan, Okla.
(580) 470-2131
- Rabies Clinic
May 17, 10 a.m.-Noon
Pauls Valley Area Office
Tishomingo
(405) 207-9883

Web exclusive articles

Read these articles and more at
www.chickasawtimes.net

Kristen Dorsey

Chickasaw jeweler Kristen Dorsey will unveil her new “Hatchet Women” collection Memorial Day weekend at the May 27 Artesian Arts Festival.

Rance Gilliam

Chickasaw citizen and University of Oklahoma student Rance Gilliam has discovered career direction through the Chickasaw Nation Chokka’ Kilimpi’ Recruitment and Retention and School-to-Work Programs.

Chickasaw Youth Day

Chickasaw students attended Oklahoma State University N7 Chickasaw Youth Day. Visit www.chickasawtimes.net to view these articles and more.

Green, Keel, Washburn, Tuttle, Harvey

Five to be inducted into Chickasaw Hall of Fame



MARY JO THOMAS GREEN



M. FRANKLIN KEEL



KEVIN WASHBURN



HOLMES TUTTLE



LT. COL. RAYMOND HARVEY

NORMAN, Okla. – A dedicated servant-leader, an international tribal attaché, a renowned tribal legal scholar, a respected statesmen, and a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient make up the 2017 Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame class.

Induction ceremonies will be 6 p.m., Thursday, June 1 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Norman.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame ceremony.

Governor Bill Anoatubby will induct the new class of honorees.

Mary Jo Thomas Green, Ada, Okla.; **M. Franklin Keel**, Colorado Springs, Colo.; **Kevin Washburn**, Albuquerque, N.M.; the late **Holmes Tuttle** and the late **Lt. Col. Raymond Harvey** will be in-

ducted into the Chickasaw Hall of Fame during the ceremony.

“As we induct these worthy individuals into the hall of fame, we recognize the resolute spirit and dedication each person has demonstrated throughout their lives, Gov. Anoatubby said.

“It is our privilege to honor these individuals for the significant contributions and positive

impact they have made to the Chickasaw Nation and throughout the world.”

Mary Jo Thomas Green

Over the past four decades, Mary Jo (Thomas) Green has helped fulfill the tribal mission to enhance Chickasaw lives. She has assumed a wide range of roles -

SEE HOF RECIPIENTS, PAGE 17



Child Development Center dedicated

Above, Governor Bill Anoatubby, center, leads March 30 ribbon-cutting ceremonies to officially open the Chickasaw Nation Child Development Center Thursday in Ardmore, Okla. Located at 1001 Cottonwood St., the Chickasaw Nation Child Development Center provides educational opportunities to more than 200 Chickasaw and non-Native children. Students range in age from infant to four years. About 300 tribal officials, dignitaries and others attended the event. Below, the facade of the Ardmore Chickasaw Nation Child Development Center.



New Ardmore Child Development Center supports creativity, learning

ARDMORE, Okla. – The importance of education took center stage as Chickasaw Nation officials opened a one-of-a-kind child development center designed to encourage creativity and offer a unique learning atmosphere.

The 26,000-square-foot Ardmore Child Development Center provides educational opportunities for more than 200 children ages six weeks to 4 years, in the Ardmore area.

“Providing a stimulating educa-

tional environment for the early years of a child’s life is the best investment we can make in ensuring their future success,” Gov. Bill Anoatubby told a crowd of almost 300 gathered for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

“Children’s early experiences – the bonds they form with their parents and their first learning experiences – deeply affect their future physical, cognitive, emo-

SEE ARDMORE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER, PAGE 17

Tribal election filing period June 5-7

The Chickasaw Nation Election Commission has announced filing period opens June 5 and continues through June 7, 2017 for 2017 General Elections.

Candidates must file in the election secretary’s office, located in the Government Services building, 2015 Lonnie Abbott Industrial Boulevard, Ada, Okla.

Candidates may file between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Legislative seats to be filled are, Seat 3 of Pontotoc District; Seat 4 of Pontotoc District; Seat 2 of Pickens District; and Seat 3 of Tishomingo District. Seat 3 of the

Chickasaw Nation Supreme Court is also up for election this year.

Legislative candidates must be registered Chickasaw voters at least 25 years of age, residents of the Chickasaw Nation for at least one year and of their respective districts for at least six months immediately preceding the election. Legislators must remain residents of their elected district during the tenure of their office. Term of office is three years.

Filing fees are \$500.

A judicial candidate must be a

SEE ELECTION, PAGE 15

Inkana Bridge connects Cultural Center, Park

SULPHUR, Okla. – A new chapter was written in the long history between the Chickasaw Nation and Chickasaw National Recreation Area when a pedestrian bridge uniting the two entities officially opened April 18.

Governor Bill Anoatubby led dedication ceremonies for the Inkana Bridge, a 195-foot pedestrian bridge suspended over Rock Creek, which connects the Chickasaw Cultural Center with Chickasaw National Recreation Area.

Inkana means “friend” in Chickasaw.

Gov. Anoatubby said the bridge that now links the Chickasaw Cultural Center and the park

was a symbol of the partnership among the Chickasaw Nation, National Park Service and Chickasaw National Recreation Area.

“It is fitting that this bridge should join the Chickasaw Cultural Center with the Chickasaw National Recreation Area, furthering our longstanding relationship with the park service,” Gov. Anoatubby said. “It indicates how important this relationship is, and our commitment to continue working with the National Park Service.

Constructed of steel, concrete and natural stone, the Inkana bridge spans Rock Creek, and provides visitors easy access be-

SEE INKANA BRIDGE, PAGE 17



From left, U.S. Rep. Tom Cole (R.-Okla.), Gov. Bill Anoatubby, Lt. Gov. Jefferson Keel and Chickasaw National Recreation Area Superintendent Bill Wright at the Inkana Bridge dedication in Sulphur, Okla., April 18. The 195-foot suspension bridge links the Chickasaw Cultural Center and the Chickasaw National Recreation Area. It is a joint effort between the Chickasaw Nation and the National Park Service.

Jacquelyn Sparks

‘Rancher’ to begin production

Production of “The Chickasaw Rancher” is set to begin this month and filming offers Chickasaw citizens the opportunity to participate as extras in the tribally-produced feature film inspired by the life of Chickasaw cattle rancher Montford T. Johnson.

A project of Chickasaw Nation Productions, the film will share the story of one of the most colorful personalities of the 19th Century - Chickasaw rancher Montford T. Johnson.

Orphaned at a young age, Johnson survived great hardships and tragedy to establish a vast ranching empire along the famous cattle highway of the American West, the Chisholm Trail.

Inspired by retellings of Johnson’s life, the film will tell of his time among settlers, Indians, cowboys, bandits and fur traders on the western plains of Indian Territory.

SEE CASTING CALL, PAGE 15

Fourth Annual Artesian Arts Festival set for May 27 in Sulphur



More than 100 accomplished artists representing 25 Indian tribes throughout the U.S. and Canada will be featured during the Artesian Arts Festival, Saturday, May 27. A record crowd of more than 6,500 attended the 2016 Artesian Arts Festival.

SULPHUR, Okla. – More than 100 esteemed artists representing 25 Native American tribes throughout the U.S. and Canada will be featured during the Artesian Arts Festival, Saturday, May 27 in Sulphur.

Hosted by the Chickasaw Nation at the Artesian Plaza, the festival is one of the fastest growing arts markets in the U.S.

A live paint by distinguished Chickasaw artist Mike Larsen will begin at 10:30 a.m., in the Artesian Art Gallery. Other noteworthy artists giving demonstrations and discussing their craft include Jimmie Harrison, Venaya Yazzie, Daniel Worcester, Kimberly Ponca, Merlin Little Thunder, Buddy Parchcorn, J. Nicole Hatfield, Tyra Shackelford and Josy Thomas.

The fourth annual Memorial Day weekend event features diverse art media and a variety of visual art such as painting, basketry, jewelry, sculpture, metalworking, bead work, photography, textiles and pottery.

Open to artists from all federally-recognized tribes, a total of 116 Indian artists selected for the juried show will compete in as many as 21 categories.

Artists scheduled to participate include Chickasaw jewelry designer and California native Kristen Dorsey; national award-winning Cherokee ceramicist Troy Jackson; E. Dee Tabor, of Tulsa, a Chickasaw artist who specializes in 3D art and is inspired by nature and her Chickasaw heritage; and contemporary Comanche artist J. Nicole Hatfield, a native Oklahoman who draws inspiration from historical photos of proud tribal women.

Artwork will be displayed in dozens of booths along the length

of Muskogee Street in downtown Sulphur.

A variety of musical entertainment is planned, as well as tribal dance demonstrations and regalia. Bands will provide continuous entertainment on two stages.

The musical line-up for the event includes a range of entertainment, including children's music, alternative rock, pop, Latin pop, country and more.

A 10 a.m. opening ceremony and demonstration by the Chickasaw Nation Dance Troupe kicks off the entertainment on the main stage, followed by performances by "Injunuity," "Sugar Free Allstars," "Highwater Gamble," "John Bomboy and the Underscores," "Boyd Street Brass," "Tequila Azul," and the "Conner Hicks Band."

Bands scheduled for the Plaza stage include "Overdrive," "Conflict of Interest," "Church of the Saturday Saints," "The Hideouts," "Billy K. Band," and "Right Place, Right Time."

Three Native American Dance troupes including the Chickasaw Nation Stomp Dance troupe, Aztec Dancers and Magic Circle Entertainment are scheduled to demonstrate Native dances on both stages.

Several food trucks and food booths will be serving festival fare such as Indian Tacos, corn-dogs, barbecue, funnel cakes, roasted corn, kettle corn, fried Oreos, pie, ice cream and more.

A special area for children's activities and a senior citizens' arts and crafts booth are also planned for the day.

Open to the public at no charge, the Artesian Arts Festival welcomed more than 6,500 to last year's festival.

Cash awards will be presented for first, second and third place in each category, as well as "Best of Show."

Festivities begin at 10 a.m. and end at 6 p.m.

For more information about the Artesian Arts Festival, contact Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities at (580) 272-5520, or by email at artistinfo@chickasaw.net.

The Artesian Plaza is located adjacent to the Artesian Hotel and Spa, 1001 W. First Street.

Artesian Arts Festival Artists 2017

Absentee Shawnee/Seminole
Ben Harjo, Jr.

Caddo
Wayne Earles, Chase Earles, Chad Earles, Yonavea Hawkins

Cherokee
Verna Bates, Karen Berry, Martha Berry, Eva Cantrell, Toneh Chulewah, Melvin Cornshucker, Vivian Cottrell, Mike Dart, J. Ross Davis, Gary Farris, Matthew Girty, Bill Glass, Jr., Daniel Horsechief, Troy Jackson, Dino Kingfisher, John Knotts, Tonya Lowrance, Ron Mitchell, Jane Osti, Buddy Parchcorn, Traci Rabbit, Tama Roberts, Jerry Sutton, Mary Beth Nelson-Timothy, Kristie Vann, Karin Walkingstick, Tana Washington, Jeffrey Watt, Bryan Waytula

Cherokee/Otoe Missouria
Tom Farris

Cheyenne
Merlin LittleThunder

Chickasaw
Steve Adamietz, Mary Ruth Barnes, Melvin Burris, Misti Butler, Larry Carter, Margaret Dillard, Kristen Dorsey, Linda Edgar, Wayne Edgar, Sr., Ellen Etzler, Sue Fish, Garry Harrison, Billy Hens-



Distinguished Chickasaw artist Mike Larsen demonstrates a live paint at the ARTesian Gallery with fellow Chickasaw artist Joanna Underwood serving as his subject, during the 2016 Artesian Arts Festival. Mr. Larsen will be conducting a live paint during the 2017 Artesian Arts Festival. Nine additional artists are also slated to conduct artist talks during the fourth annual festival.



Traditional Native flutes on display at the 2016 Artesian Arts Festival. The fourth annual Memorial Day weekend event will feature diverse art media and a variety of visual art such as painting, basketry, jewelry, sculpture, metalworking, bead work, photography, textiles and pottery.

ley, Lisa Hudson, Tyson Hudson, Peggy Immohotichey, Elihu Johnson, Stephanie Kauffman, Brian Landreth, Paula Loftin, Dustin Mater, Doneeta Nowlin, Tyra Shackelford, Rena Smith, Vicki Somers, Jetawn Spivey, Lance Straughn, E. Dee Tabor, Richard Thomas, Ben Trosper, Jim Trosper, Joanna Underwood, Jeremy Wallace, Ashley Wallace, Ben White, Daniel Worcester

Chickasaw/Choctaw
Tracie Davis, Norma Howard

Chickasaw/Choctaw/Cherokee
Courtney Parchcorn

Chickasaw/Choctaw/Creek
Danielle Fixico

Chickasaw/Miss Choctaw
Nancy Johnson, Uriah Looney

Chickasaw/Pueblo Jemez
Marcella Yepa

Choctaw
Dylan Cavin, Paul Hacker, Doug Maytubbie, Candace Shanholtzer, Brenda Mackey-Musgrave

Comanche
Rita Heath

Comanche/Kiowa
J. Nicole Hatfield

Creek
Jon Tiger

Creek/Euchee
Les Berryhill

Dine/Hope
Venaya Yazzie

Jicarilla Apache
Damon Neal

Laguna Pueblo
LuAnne Aragon

Mississippi Choctaw
Randy Chitto
Gene Smith

Mississippi Choctaw/Laguna Pueblo

Hollis Chitto

Muscogee (Creek)
Leslie Deer, Johnnie Diacon, John Timothy II, Jimmie Fife(Stewart), Sandy Fife-Wilson

Navajo
Esther Belin, Norris Chee, Suzanne Hudson

Navajo/Dine
Jimmie Harrison

Northern Arapaho
Jackie Sevier

Onondaga
Josy Thomas

Osage
Clancy Gray, Anna Jefferson, K (Wendy) Ponca

Otoe Missouria/Kiowa
Lester Harragarra

Otoe-Missouria
Regina Waters, Rhonda Williams

Ponca
Sid Armstrong

Prairie Band Potawatomi/Chickasaw
Mitch Battese

Sac and Fox
Tony Tiger

San Felipe Pueblo
Jennifer Garcia

Ray Garcia

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

Chickasaw photographer to feature works at Arts Festival

ADA, Okla. – Paula Loftin is expanding her photography repertoire to include her Chickasaw and Choctaw heritage.

Her desire is to have an image of a Native warrior on display May 27 at the Fourth Annual Artesian Arts Festival in Sulphur, Okla.

Titled "Out of the Shadows," an Indian warrior – armed with flintlock rifle and attired in full warrior regalia – emerges into the sunlight from a dark forest background. Crouched in a grassy meadow, his weapon at the ready, the man scans his surroundings for danger.

"Out of the Shadows" may be accompanied by another shot of a warrior and his horse face-to-face to illustrate the affection and

importance of ponies to generations of Indian people.

Ms. Loftin is not abandoning a lifelong love affair with galloping horses, lasso-twirling cowboys and wildflower-laden western landscapes. She believes Old West imagery is best personified by Indians, cowboys and horses.

"I like my photographs to tell a story," she said.

She understands "the story" may differ with each admirer who pauses at Booth 58 to admire her work.

"I enjoy the notion my photography speaks differently to others," she said. "It is one of the thrilling aspects of photography



Chickasaw photographer Paula Loftin adjusts a canvas print titled "Evening Run" displayed in her office. The professional shutterbug will bring her unique brand of photography to the Fourth Annual Artesian Arts Festival May 27 in Sulphur, Okla.

SEE LOFTIN, PAGE 5

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Chickasaw Nation has historically been an ‘education tribe’

The Chickasaw Nation has a well-earned reputation as a tribe with a focus on education. After the end of the American Civil War, the tribe rapidly expanded its number of elementary and secondary schools. In 1867, the Chickasaw Nation dedicated 11 new schools and welcomed scores of Chickasaw and other Indian students. The tribe also invested generously in secondary institutions known at that time as “seminaries.”

Bloomfield Female Seminary, Chickasaw Male Academy, Wapanucka Institute and Lebanon Orphan School all provided what we today refer to as a high school education.

The Chickasaw Nation became known as a highly progressive, education-focused tribe that valued its educational institutions and learning.

That Chickasaw commitment to education has continued to the current day. Throughout the generations, growing numbers of Chickasaws earned their high school degrees and entered the work force prepared to succeed. The value of higher education became apparent to Chickasaw leaders and a growing group of Chickasaws began earning bachelor’s and advanced degrees.

Over time, the Chickasaw Nation continued in its resolve to educate as many Chickasaws as possible. The tribe consistently promoted the benefits of a good education to our young people.



GOV. BILL ANOATUBBY

Governor,
The Chickasaw
Nation

Today, we are experiencing an explosion in the numbers of college-educated Chickasaw citizens. More Chickasaws than ever understand the huge benefit of a college degree. Year after year we are seeing greater numbers of recent Chickasaw high school graduates moving on to higher education. That translates into bright futures for our children!

These young people are our legacy. Chickasaws know the educated mind will deliver a huge return on investment, for the individual, family and tribe.

We are blessed to have so many bright, ambitious and eager young people participating in our many education programs. What a robust group it is! Across the country, these young Chickasaws have excelled in a wide array of disciplines, scholarly pursuits and extracurricular activities. They are a very precious resource.

Years ago, the tribe was strictly limited in what it could invest in our children’s educations. We relied almost exclusively on federal funding for a range of programs serving pre-kindergarten to college and university students. Today, our education funding has developed into a powerhouse.

During the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 2016, the Chickasaw Nation invested more than \$27.8 million in its education programs. Those funds helped students from three-year-old Head Start kids to men and women completing dissertations. Today, if you are Chickasaw and are willing to work hard at your studies, your tribe is going to support you all the way!

What value can we place on a good education? In economic terms, college graduates earn substantially more than those with only a high school degree. In terms of satisfaction, accomplishment and pride, no dollar value can express the great amount of good Chickasaws are doing in the world.

The human mind has incredible capacity to accept information and learn. As a tribe, we must assist people so they may take full advantage of their intellectual abilities. The Chickasaw Nation makes education a top priority. That commitment pays dividends in Chickasaw people making tremendous contributions to their families, their tribe, their country and their world.

Bank2 home loan closing cost voucher available to citizens, employees through July 31

OKLAHOMA CITY – Chickasaw citizens and Chickasaw Nation employees financing or refinancing a home purchase through Bank2 can receive a \$1,000 voucher toward closing costs on a qualifying home loan.

This program runs through July 31, 2017.

This is the second consecutive year Bank2 has extended the offer to Chickasaw Nation citizens and employees.

Governor Bill Anoatubby said that the Bank2 program was designed to help Chickasaw citizens and employees meet their housing needs.

“Home ownership has long been a high priority for the Chickasaw Nation,” Gov. Anoatubby said. “This program makes home loans more accessible for Chickasaw citizens and employees in Oklahoma and across the United States.”

In 2016, the program’s inaugural year, Bank2 president and CEO Ross Hill said more than 70 home buyers from four states took advantage of the home loan closing cost voucher.

“We are very pleased to be able to continue serving Chickasaw citizens and employees as they make one of the largest purchases in their lives,” Mr. Hill said. “We are grateful for Governor Anoatubby’s support as we harness our expertise in the banking industry to serve citizens, in

hopes that this program helps alleviate some stress during their home-buying experience.”

Bank2’s online banking tools make it easy for home buyers to begin the loan application process. Citizens living inside and outside of Oklahoma can take advantage of this opportunity.

The \$1,000 voucher is applied to closing costs at the time of loan closing with Bank2. The voucher can be used at the time of closing only to pay home loan closing fees such as home inspections, property appraisals, lender and title fees.

Terms and conditions apply. Full details about the \$1,000 home loan closing cost voucher can be found at www.bank2cc.com or by calling (877) 409-2265.

This special offer for Chickasaw citizens applies only to applications with Bank2 dated from May 1 through July 31, 2017. Closing must occur within 90 days of application date.

Bank2’s underwriting standards for approval apply. The voucher has no cash value outside of the transaction with Bank2. Any unused amount of the voucher will be cancelled at closing and will not be remitted or otherwise available to the borrower for any other purpose.

Bank2 is a national leader in Native American home loans. The bank is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Chickasaw Nation.



Chipota Chikashahanompoli students took first place during the recent 15th Annual Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair in Norman, Okla. Front row from left, Josie Morgan, Kadynce Hamilton and Jayla Underwood. Top row from left, Danya Impson, Chance Johnson, Ryan Hamilton, Caitlin Hamilton, Daniel Hamilton, Brenlee Underwood and Jacoby Impson.

Chickasaw students win first at Youth Language Fair

NORMAN, Okla. - Language ambassadors from across Oklahoma converged at the Sam Noble Museum in Norman, April 3-4 for the 15th Annual Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair.

Participants from the Chipota Chikashahanompoli Youth Speaking Chickasaw Club won first place in the large group traditional song category with Choctaw Hymn 48. They also placed third in the large group spoken language performing How the Day and Night Were Divided.

The annual two-day event is a celebration of language diversity and cultural heritage, highlighting more than 40 different Native American languages.

Preparation for the competition began with weekly meetings in February focusing on words and phrases, and later progressing to twice a week meetings as the competition date approached.

“We provide some enrichment for language and some useful language the students can do at home or at school with their

friends,” youth language outreach manager Clovis Hamilton said. “We create a new learning environment for language rather than the typical classroom experience.”

Meetings will resume in May for Chipota Chikashahanompoli. New members are always welcome.

For more information, contact the Chickasaw Nation Language Department at (580) 436-7272.

CONTRIBUTED BY Kristen Gill, Public Affairs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rabies Clinic
May 19, 10 a.m.-Noon
Panola Senior Center
Colbert, Okla.
(580) 271-9512

Natural Dye Art Class
May 19
ARTesian Gallery & Studios
Sulphur
(580) 622-8040

Armed Forces Day
May 20
Chickasaw Cultural Center
Sulphur
(580) 622-7130

Gospel Singing
May 20, 1-3 p.m.
Chickasaw National Capitol
Tishomingo
(580) 371-3351

Beaded Collar Class
May 20, 4-10 p.m.
Chickasaw National Capitol
Tishomingo
(580) 371-3351

Mary Ruth Barnes Art Class
May 24, 1:30-4:30 p.m.
ARTesian Gallery & Studios
Sulphur
(580) 622-8040

Movie Night at the Museum
May 26, 8:30 p.m.-Midnight
Boggy Depot, Atoka, Okla.
(580) 371-9835

Rabies Clinic
May 26, 10 a.m.-Noon
Tishomingo Area Office
Tishomingo
(580) 371-9512

Artesian Arts Festival
May 27, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Artesian Hotel & Spa
Sulphur
(580) 272-5520

Memorial Day/Artesian Arts Festival
May 27-28
Chickasaw Cultural Center
Sulphur
(580) 622-7130

Cultural Camp
May 31-June 1
Chickasaw Cultural Center
Sulphur
(580) 622-7130

Imanolí Writers Conference
June 1, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Arts & Humanities Building
Ada
(580) 272-5520

Hall of Fame
June 1, 6 p.m.
Embassy Suites
Norman, Okla.
(405) 364-8040

Youth Musical Theatre Performance
June 3, 2 p.m.
Ada High School, Ada
(580) 272-5520

Dream Catcher Class
June 6, 1-3 p.m.
Chickasaw National Capitol
Tishomingo
(580) 371-3351

Children’s Village students bring home awards from Language Fair



Chickasaw third-grader Kinley Reeves placed second in this year’s Youth Language Fair poster contest.



The Chickasaw Children’s Village team earned first place in the third- to fifth-grade large group spoken language contest. From left are Kortez Harjo, Kayden Harjo, Isaiah Primm, Ramona Fox, Regina Curtis, Kyree Smith, Teresa Reeves, Kinley Reeves, Taloa Lewis and Jaime Lewis.

Chickasaw Children’s Village students in prekindergarten through eighth grade spent weeks preparing for the 15th Annual Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair, April 3-4 at the Sam Noble Museum in Norman, Okla.

The students took home awards ranging from first to third place in competitions that highlighted the language and art of their tribe. They joined Choctaws, Kiowas, Shawnees, Pawnees, Creeks, Comanches, Lakotas, Seminoles and other Indian children in sharing and celebrating their culture at the event.

The Chickasaw Children’s Village participated as a team, earning first place in the third- to fifth-grade large group spoken language contest. They performed “Hashminticha Impa” a Chickasaw version of blessing the dinner table.

Chickasaw students fared well in this year’s poster contest. Kinley Reeves of the Chickasaw Chil-

dren’s Village placed second in the third- to fifth-grade poster contest. Gracie Kelly, also from the Chickasaw Children’s Village, placed third in the sixth- to eighth-grade contest.

The Chickasaw Nation offers many convenient learning opportunities for students of all ages looking to brush up on their linguistic skills in Chikashshanompa’ (the Chickasaw language). A self-teaching portal and workbook for the language can be found online at www.chickasaw.net/anompa. There, the language is taught in recorded pronunciations grouped by themes and

purpose. Greetings, food, animals and technology are some of the lessons.

In partnership with the Chickasaw Nation, Rosetta Stone offers a learning program dedicated to the Chickasaw language. The first 40 lessons of this program are now available free to Chickasaw citizens. Applications are available at www.chickasaw.net/rosettastone. Additionally, community classes are currently taught throughout the Chickasaw Nation. Contact the language department at (580) 436-7272 for more information.

CONTRIBUTED BY Taylor Owen, Public Affairs.

New facility to feature information on many Tishomingo area attractions

New Chickasaw Information Center dedicated in Tishomingo



Gov. Bill Anoatubby, center, is joined by a host of Chickasaw Nation and Johnston County, Oklahoma dignitaries in an April 25 ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the Chickasaw Nation Information Center in Tishomingo. Located at the intersection of Capitol and Main streets, the 10,765-square-foot Information Center houses the Chickasaw Nation Tourism Department, tribal Office of Special Events, Johnston County Chamber of Commerce and Johnston County Historical Society.

TISHOMINGO, Okla. – Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby led ribbon cutting ceremonies to officially open the new Chickasaw Nation Information Center Tuesday, April 25.

Gov. Anoatubby said the Chickasaw Nation Information Center is designed to shine a light on the many attractions the Tishomingo area has to offer. It is also an opportunity for the Chickasaw Nation to enrich its partnership with the historic city.

“Tishomingo has a historical

connection with the Chickasaws. This area is home to many links to our tribal history and identity. We are excited to see the Tishomingo area grow and we look forward to sharing the Chickasaw story with visitors,” Gov. Anoatubby said.

The new Information Center serves as a gateway for the many attractions in this historic section of the Chickasaw Nation, including the Chickasaw National Capitol Building and Council House Museum, Chickasaw White

House, Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge and Blue River.

Located at the intersection of Capitol and Main streets, the 10,765-square-foot Information Center houses the Chickasaw Nation Tourism Department, tribal Office of Special Events, Johnston County Chamber of Commerce and Johnston County Historical Society.

“We are pleased to strengthen our partnership with the Johnston County Chamber of Commerce and the Johnston County

Historical Society,” Gov. Anoatubby said. “We are excited to see the positive impact this new facility will have on local tourism and the economy.”

Almost 3,000 square feet of the building is dedicated to providing visitors with tourism information, with kiosks filled with information about Johnston County and Chickasaw Country.

Visitors to Johnston County and Chickasaw Country will be provided with information regarding tourism destinations and attractions, including cultural sites, hotels, recreation and other opportunities.

“The Tishomingo area has a great deal of natural beauty to explore, including Pennington Creek, the Blue River, the Tishomingo Wildlife Refuge and the Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery,” Gov. Anoatubby said.

Visitors will also find information about local historic locations, such as the Chickasaw National Capitol Building and Council House Museum and the Chickasaw Bank Museum.

The building also features a conference room, hospitality bar, full kitchen and restroom facilities all designed to accommodate large groups.

A separate 2,600 square-foot storage building is also on the property.

Chickasaw Information Center hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information about the center, visit Chickasaw Country’s website at ChickasawCountry.com.

Chickasaw History

The Chickasaw Nation’s connection with the area dates back beyond 1856 when Chickasaw citizens gathered at Pennington Creek to draft the tribal constitution.

The Chickasaw Annual Meeting and Festival is conducted each fall in Tishomingo and draws thousands of visitors from across the country.

In addition to the Information Center, the Chickasaw Nation has several new facilities in Tishomingo, each designed to improve services to citizens, including a new Senior Center, medical clinic expansion and a new Head Start facility.

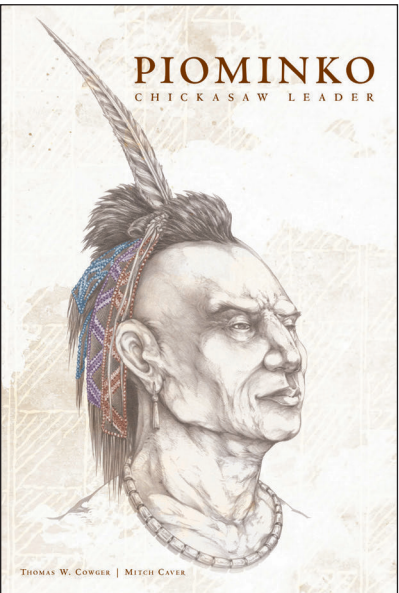
About Tishomingo

Tishomingo is the historic capital of the Chickasaw Nation and the county seat of Johnston County, Oklahoma. Tishomingo has a wide variety of entertainment options, including downtown boutiques and the great outdoors, featuring the Blue River and Tishomingo Wildlife Refuge.

For more information about Tishomingo and Chickasaw Country, visit www.chickasaw-country.com

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

‘Piominko’ chronicles life of legendary Chickasaw leader



James Thomas Flexner’s book “The Indispensable Man,” chronicles the unparalleled importance of George Washington to America’s founding. As East Central University’s Dr. Tom Cowger’s new co-authored book reveals; that era also produced the Chickasaw Nation’s own indispensable man in Piominko.

“Piominko: Chickasaw Leader,” reveals what few historians, if any, realized before: the great visionary Chickasaw tribal leader, Piominko, and President Washington, forged a critically important friendship that endured till their dying breaths.

The book explores their friendship as well as Piominko’s dogged determination to defend his tribe’s sovereignty, a legacy



DR. TOM COWGER

whose echoes reverberate to this very day.

Dr. Cowger’s interest was piqued in 2013 as he and some East Central students traveled to Mississippi to explore the original Chickasaw homelands. It was there he became more fully aware of Piominko’s importance and was stunned to learn no one had ever written a biography about this pivotal leader’s influence over his own nation and that of the still fledgling United States.

“We were touring the homeland and, in particular, visiting lots of Chickasaw sites,” Dr. Cowger said. “A lot of the different places they took us to were places where Piominko had lived. I was visiting with Dr. Brad Lieb, Chickasaw Nation archaeologist, who led the tour and asked him for more details about Piominko and if a book had ever been written about him.”

As it turned out, a Tupelo, Mis-



MITCH CAVER

issippi, area resident had already been collecting information on the subject. “I found out Mitch Caver, who has also been long active in Chickasaw research, had been collecting material on Piominko for years,” he said.

The two decided to work together on the project. “Mitch is a tireless researcher and he will leave no stone unturned,” Dr. Cowger said about his collaborator and co-author. “We constantly bounced ideas off each other. Not only did that collaboration produce a book, but a terrific friendship as well.”

“I was always interested in people that were not common in Mississippi history and Piominko was one of them,” Mr. Caver said. “The first thing I ran across were moccasins in the Tennessee State Museum in Nashville, Tennessee, that were a gift from him to Gen. James Robertson. When I ran into Dr. Cowger, I had some pho-

tographs of these moccasins and that piqued his interest as well.”

Much of Mr. Caver’s 10-year search for Piominko references came from late 18th century newspapers. The media of that day in towns from Mississippi to Pennsylvania read like a travel log of his 1794 trek to visit George Washington’s Philadelphia home where the two leaders dined.

“Every time his name appeared in those newspapers, he was referred to as ‘The great Piominko,’ or ‘Our ally, Piominko.’ It was always in fondness and appreciation for him,” Mr. Caver said. “He was very well known among Americans in the New England area as well as in England.”

Dr. Cowger said it would be difficult to overstate the importance of Piominko’s legacy. “He’s a person that, in his lifetime was well-known by American officials. All across our newly created country, people respected him for his commitment to America.”

Piominko’s decision to side with America was not always popular with other tribes and sometimes even questioned by his own tribal members. “A lot of tribes were partnering with Spain. Piominko made a conscious decision at one point that he was going to ally himself with the United States.”

Because of his unwillingness to side with Spain, Dr. Cowger said Alexander McGillivray and his Creek Confederacy members tried several times to kill Piominko. “If they could have killed him, they would have killed him,” he said. “He survived those attempts and continued to maintain that the best course of action for him and the Chickasaw Nation was with the United States and his friendship with George Washington.”

Dr. Cowger said Piominko was actually a title, not the great leader’s given name. “We know he’s

called that because the Europeans who kept records heard that title and assumed it was a name. They spelled it a variety of different ways. The closest linguists in the Chickasaw Nation can get is that the title probably references something along the lines of an oracle or a visionary. It could have been as a diplomat, as a warrior or as a peace leader,” he said.

“I have great admiration for both Washington and Piominko because they were people of their word. If they said something, they were going to do it. They were people of real integrity and that meant something to them.

“In the course of the history of all people, sometimes there are only a handful that distinguish themselves enough to be leaders without any kind of equals. I put Piominko in that class. He is a once in several centuries’ type of Chickasaw leader and Native leader in general. I think Gov. Anoatubby is a very similar kind of visionary. Look at where the Chickasaw Nation was 30 years ago and the direction it is going. I think they are once in several lifetimes kinds of leaders. Both have protected Chickasaw sovereignty and advanced Chickasaw interests for the betterment of the Chickasaw Nation and those around them.”

No one is certain when Piominko died, but informed speculation puts it circa 1799. If so, it was the same year George Washington died, making a fitting end of an era for these two titan leaders of their respective sovereign nations.

“Piominko: Chickasaw Leader” will be released May 11 at Chickasaw Press, 1315 Hoppe Blvd., Ada. The book may also be purchased online at chickasawpress.com and amazon.com.

CONTRIBUTED BY Lone’ Beasley, Media Relations.

3RD ANNUAL

CHICKASAW

VETERANS CONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2017

10 A.M. – 5 P.M. | CHECK IN BEGINS AT 8:30 A.M.

WinStar World Casino & Resort

777 CASINO AVENUE

THACKERVILLE, OKLAHOMA 73459

PLEASE RSVP BY MAY 15, 2017

To register online, visit WWW.CHICKASAW.NET/VETCONF or call (580) 272-2550 to register by phone.

OK Bar Association scholarship deadline May 23

The Indian Law Section of the Oklahoma Bar Association recently announced the opening of applications for its annual G. William Rice Memorial Scholarship.

This \$2,500 scholarship will be awarded to a second- or third-year law school student who intends to practice Indian law in Oklahoma.

Scholarship applications are accepted through May 23. The recipient will be announced at the annual Sovereignty Symposium presented by the Oklahoma Supreme Court in June.

Applications must include:

- Cover letter describing com-

mitment to practice Indian law in Oklahoma

- Résumé describing Indian law-related activities
- Transcript
- Academic or professional reference letter

Please submit applications to: Debra Gee
P.O. Box 1548, Ada, OK 74821
or by email to: debra.gee@chickasaw.net

DEADLINE: TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2017

Awards will be announced in June at the Sovereignty Symposium.

Fulfilling a dream with help from tribe’s Career Tech program

California Chickasaw high school senior on his way to earning helicopter pilot’s license



Chickasaw high school student Robby Graves is earning a helicopter pilot’s license at age 17. He is pursuing pilot school through the support of the Chickasaw Nation’s Career Technology Program.

LOFTIN

CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 2

as art. My photographs illustrate how life was a long time ago. I love the western way of life and that way of life is disappearing.”

DISCOVERIES

Ms. Loftin’s fondness for photography began as a teenager in Grant, Okla., a community established in 1889 at the behest of Frisco Railroad executives. Situated between Hugo, Okla., and Paris, Texas, the 2010 census showed the community’s population at 289.

In 1979, Ms. Loftin purchased a point-and-shoot Kodak – a basic 35mm film camera. It automatically selected shutter and aperture settings based on specific lighting elements. However, such a tool diminishes a photographer’s creativity.

“It didn’t take long before I discovered the camera’s limitations,” Ms. Loftin said with a smile.

Not satisfied with the Kodak, she purchased her first single lens reflex camera – a Chinon – and began experimenting and reading “every photography book I could get my hands on” in the Hugo Public Library, where she worked for a number of years after graduating high school.

Learning about lens settings, speed and focal length, she began exposing film with different settings to obtain the artistic qualities she desired.

Advanced technology ushered in digital photography in 2006. Ms. Loftin purchased a Nikon D-80.

No longer would she be relegated to developing film to see if the image she envisioned was captured on the frame. With the Nikon, she could examine the photo instantly to see if it needed to be lighter, darker or sharper.

“It is still a learning process,” she said about digital photography. “While I acquire information from the on-camera light meter, I make decisions about settings and judgments of image quality.”

CHOICES

Horses dominate Ms. Loftin’s photography. Her equestrian interests were established by age three. She lives north of Ada and owns a horse. She rides with friends, but not as often as she would like.

She discovered an artistic outlet in photography junkets where paid models rode horses, dressed in period attire, wielded lassos, and acted out a bygone era of wrangling horses and herding cattle. The shoots are usually limited to a few photographers and

have taken her to Texas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming.

The junkets have produced award-winning images, many of which adorn the walls of Carl Albert Service Center in Ada. Ms. Loftin’s landscape photography, as well as western photography, has been purchased by the Chickasaw Nation specifically for the center.

Ms. Loftin earned “Best of Show” in the Te Ata Fisher Chickasaw Nation Employee Art Show this year. She has won many first-place citations from Southeast Art Show and Market (SEASAM) hosted annually in October at the Chickasaw Nation’s Annual Meeting and Festival.

Her photography is sought by private collectors. Her keen eye at capturing a moment of western life as it would have been in the 1800s astounds the admirer.

Clarity, action and intimacy speak emotionally to art aficionados.

One photo, “Evening Run,” captures four horses in full gallop, manes and tails flowing freely, yet each hair is captured in full definition.

“It is one of my favorites,” Ms. Loftin said of “Evening Run.”

She is so confident of exposures, she limits photo manipulation to Adobe Light Room.

“I will use (Adobe) Photoshop about five percent of the time.”

TIME TRAVELS

In addition to large, professionally finished prints on canvas, Ms. Loftin will offer 8x10 and 11x14 prints for consumers at the Artesian Arts Festival. The prints may be purchased economically for admirers unable to spend hundreds for the larger art.

The Artesian Arts Festival is the fastest growing Native-themed art show in the nation. This year marks the fourth time it has been hosted by the Chickasaw Nation. Artists submit work and a panel of judges decide whose art is worthy of inclusion.

Ms. Loftin has displayed art three of four years. In 2013, 34 artists comprised the entirety of the festival. This May, 116 artists are juried to take part.

On her website, www.justhorsinaroundphotography.com, a plethora of professional quality photographs await viewers, from Native Americans to cowboys to horses to landscapes and sunsets.

“I am constantly framing photographs in my mind,” she said. “It drives my friends crazy.”

CONTRIBUTED BY Gene Lehmann, Media Relations.

ROCKLIN, Calif. – Russell “Robby” Graves, a Chickasaw citizen from Rocklin, has loved helicopters since he was eight. Through the Chickasaw Nation Career Technology Program, he went from flying remote control helicopters to being at the controls of a standard helicopter at age 17.

“I have always wanted to fly helicopters,” Robby said. “My parents bought me an exploration flight for Christmas when I was fourteen, I got to fly a few months later and started pilot school a few weeks after that.”

Robby, a senior at Whitney High School outside Sacramento, will graduate in June. In addition, he will be testing for his private helicopter license before continuing his training with commercial helicopter pilot license school. He also plans to pursue an aviation mechanic license.

“I am hoping to join the Army National Guard in California to train as an aviation engine mechanic and hopefully move into a pilot position with an aviation unit once my training is complete,” he said. “There are also many other career opportunities that I am looking into, such as helicopter tours, flying for the forestry department and flying to oil rigs. My ultimate goal is to fly for a life flight organization and have the opportunity to save lives.”

The Chickasaw Nation Career Technology Program made it possible for Robby to pursue his dream of flying. The funding

he received through the Chickasaw Nation has assisted with his tuition when scholarships and other financial aid has not been available.

“Since I am not a high school graduate yet and pilot school is not an accredited degree program, I did not qualify for any scholarships or financial aid,” Robby said. “My parents have done what they can to pay for flight school but with the grants that I have received from the Chickasaw Nation, I am able to live my dream.”

The career technology program helps Chickasaw citizens pay for vocational training, trade schools, employment testing and more. Chickasaw citizens of any age, living anywhere, are eligible to receive funding to pursue career training and education. Program benefits include, career technology program grants, exam and licensure assistance grants, textbook and supplies assistance grants and certification completion incentives. Eligibility is not income based.

Robby has completed flight lessons and ground school training at Capitol Helicopters in Sacra-

Graduation stoles for Chickasaw graduates available

The Chickasaw Nation Higher Education Program offers graduation stoles to Chickasaw college graduates. Recipients must earn an associates degree or higher at an accredited college or university.

mento. Robby said his flight instructor was a young pilot as well, making the flying lessons even more enjoyable.

“I am honored and grateful for the opportunity the Chickasaw Nation has provided to me,” he said. “I look forward to finding ways that I can help the Chickasaw community and support the preservation of our history and culture. I believe that hard work and persistence are key to obtaining your dreams.”

Robby’s drive and determination are also shown on the field. He plays for two soccer teams and competes in MotoTrials, a specialized motorcycle agility competition. The high school senior also holds a part-time job. He hopes his hard work serves as an example to young Chickasaws.

“It is possible to achieve your dreams as long as you work hard and never give up regardless of setbacks,” he said.

To learn more about the Chickasaw Nation Career Technology Program, visit www.Chickasaw.net/Careertech or call (580) 421-7711.

CONTRIBUTED BY Jennifer Jones, Public Affairs.

Indian entrepreneur sessions

May 9, 16, 23

OKLAHOMA CITY - A new program to help rural Oklahoma entrepreneurs realize their business dreams launched April 3 with an announcement at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Appropriately dubbed “GrowOK,” this new initiative partners with four of the largest federally-recognized tribes in Oklahoma – Chickasaw, Cherokee, Choctaw and Muscogee (Creek) Nations – and i2E, a private not-for-profit corporation focused on growing small businesses in Oklahoma. The new program is designed especially for rural communities and Native American entrepreneurs.

Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin hailed the project as an innovative step in diversifying the state’s economy in rural areas, as well as its urban centers.

“I am pleased that i2E is taking this creative program to Oklahoma’s rural and

Native American population,” Gov. Fallin said. “It will offer rural entrepreneurs access to services that will help them find new markets, new customers for products developed in their communities.”

Scott Meacham, i2E’s president and CEO, said GrowOK’s curriculum challenges rural and Native American entrepreneurs to identify their customers and determine whether their concept solves a true market need.

“Thanks to the federal Economic Development Administration and our great partners here in Oklahoma, this program will allow i2E to take our services to the state’s Native American and rural entrepreneurs in areas where they live and work,” Mr. Meacham said. “Our mission with GrowOK will be to help grow successful ventures in rural communities across the state.”

Among other things, those approved to participate will get the benefit of an analysis identifying target customers and their needs, verifying potential markets, assessing market barriers, risks and potential competitors, and mapping out distribution channels.

The not-for-profit company has a 17-year history of providing business expertise and funding to more than 650 of Oklahoma’s emerging small businesses and currently has \$40 million of investment capital under management.

Sessions hosted by the Chickasaw Nation will be May 9, 16 and 23. For more information about how to get involved with GrowOK, contact Randa Covington at randa.covington@chickasaw.net or call (580) 559-0620.

CONTRIBUTED BY Lone’ Beasley, Media Relations.

START YOUR
SUMMER ADVENTURE!

NYPD

Native Youth
Preventing Diabetes

SUMMER CAMP

JUNE 12-16

CAMP TAKATOKA
CHOUTEAU, OK

CHICKASAW STUDENTS
AGES 8-12

APPLICATION
DEADLINE: MAY 19

CAMPERS ENJOY ACTIVITIES SUCH AS:

ARCHERY • BASKETBALL • HIKING • CRAFTS • SWIMMING • CANOEING • WALL CLIMBING
NATURE STUDIES • VOLLEYBALL • FISHING • ROPES COURSES • CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Campers learn about nutrition, self-esteem, physical fitness and
diabetes prevention, while enjoying all the fun of a traditional summer camp.

For more information, contact Angie Wrublewski at (580) 421-7711
or Angela.Wrublewski@Chickasaw.net.

About Native Youth Preventing Diabetes Camp

NYPD is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization made up entirely of volunteer health professionals with a desire to make a positive contribution to the lives of Native youth of Oklahoma. The Chickasaw Nation is a coalition member, along with 19 other tribal organizations. Visit nypdkids.org to learn more.

Lots of activity in Tishomingo District, particularly in our capital city

Chokma!
Greetings from the Tishomingo District! It's spring here in the Tishomingo District and the surrounding communities of Sulphur, Davis and Tishomingo are bustling with visitors and exciting new developments. Tishomingo, in particular, has recently been the scene of many debuts of new buildings and facilities.



TIM COLBERT

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

The new Tishomingo Head Start building, Tishomingo Senior Center, Tishomingo Community Center and renovated Tishomingo Area Office and a Chickasaw Youth Club are expected to be open soon. All these projects benefit Chickasaws and many community members of all ages and walks of life, from pre-school to elders. Each facility provides an important service, from health services and programs to education, youth activities, senior services and community comradery. These new facilities, along with the Tishomingo Clinic and Wellness Center make up the Chickasaw Nation campus along 6th Street in Tishomingo. The new buildings provide better access and convenience for our citizens who live and work in Tishomingo. Along Main Street, the Tishomingo Information Center is also now open. Similar to the Chickasaw Visitor Center in Sulphur and the Welcome Center in Davis, this impressive building will serve as a gateway for visitors who want to discover what the area has to offer. It also is a tangible symbol of our partnerships with the Johnston County area, as civic and historical groups will also be housed in the building. All these developments in Tishomingo enhance the quality of life of not only the Chickasaws who live in the area, but the community members and those who visit the area. During the past few years, we have watched as these and many new developments have opened in the Tishomingo District. The Artesian Hotel, new Bedre' Factory as well as the Chickasaw Cultural Center are among some of the larger destinations. We are proud of these new facilities which help us share our culture and heritage and also contribute to our Nation's success and self-governance. With business ventures, we are able to provide health care, education, housing, elder and child care services and so much more to Chickasaw citizens. We have also witnessed the opening of a new, expanded Tishomingo Clinic to provide and deliver quality health care to our citizens and our Native American community members. Working alongside Gov. Anoatubby, we have accomplished many projects and established a multitude of services to enhance the lives of all of our citizens. We can all be proud of all the accomplishments, enormous strides and progress we have made. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your representative on the Chickasaw legislature. It is truly an honor and a privilege. Chokma' shki, Tim Colbert Tim.Colbert@chickasaw.net 580-421-7242

A special visit to the Chickasaw homelands is a moving experience

Hello Everyone,
As summer fast approaches, I would like to remind parents about the great summer programs the Chickasaw Nation offers our children. Summer camps are a great way to educate young minds during the summer months while having fun at the same time. If you will check out the official Chickasaw Nation website, you will find the programs and camps listed.



CONNIE BARKER

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

We recently had a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Chickasaw Nation Inkana Bridge which connects the Chickasaw Nation Cultural Center to the Chickasaw Nation Recreation Area in Sulphur, Oklahoma. The area is so peaceful with the rolling creek, wild flowers and vegetable gardens. If you are looking for a place to visit this summer, I suggest you stop by the Cultural Center and spend time learning the history of our people and witness firsthand the authentic traditions of the Chickasaw people. I had the pleasure of making a Homelands trip last summer back to where it all began, in the Tupelo, Mississippi area. There we toured original home sites, battle grounds and museums housing many pre-historic artifacts. We were allowed to hold pieces of stone which had been fashioned into tools or weapons that were used in everyday life of a Chickasaw ancestor, and marvel at the craftsmanship of that era. While visiting there, I had the feeling of belonging, and wondered what it must have been like for my Chickasaw ancestors to stand in the same spot where I was standing. If you are looking for a beautiful site to visit this summer as a family vacation, make a trip to the Homelands and see for yourself and see the historic sites. Many wonderful things are happening in the upcoming months for the citizens of the Chickasaw Nation so stay tuned..... Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Legislator for the Pickens district. God bless, Connie Barker

Update address online or by phone!

It is a happy new year when we can keep in touch with Chickasaw citizens!

Let us know your physical address with an easy address update online or by phone.

Receive important news, resources, guides and help us respond when you are affected by a natural disaster or weather emergency when you add your current information online at www.chickasaw.net/address or call (888) 661-0137.

Tribal elections upcoming and it is time to be certain you are registered

Hello Everyone,
Believe it or not, the 2017 Chickasaw election season is just around the corner. Candidates will be filing for office in the first week of June. Then, it's off to the races with ballots being counted in mid-July.

I encourage you to vote. I encounter so many Chickasaws who say they haven't voted in years. Some don't think their, one vote really matters. Others have just become disillusioned with the political process. Still others think that their vote is not private, and for that reason, they simply don't vote.

Here is the thing, though. How you vote is not known. Whether or not you vote, however, can be and is known.

While I understand each of those barriers to voting, I know to have government, programs and services, and businesses that more effectively serve all Chickasaw people, we must express ourselves by voting.

Each and every vote counts and matters. There have been Chickasaw elections decided by as few as 3 votes!

While I understand the frustrations, I know that one way to address the issues is to get to know all the elected officials, one-on-one, and how each works. Then vote!

So it is time to prepare ourselves to vote. First, we need to make sure we are registered to vote, whether that means registering for the first time or simply verifying that your registration is current.

The best indicator that your registration is current is if *the Chickasaw Times* is being sent to your home address. Your ballot will be sent to the same address as your copy of *the Times*.

If you are not receiving a copy of *the Chickasaw Times* with your name and address on a sticker on the front page, you will NOT receive a ballot.

To register for the first time or to check your voter registration status, call (580) 310-6411 or (888) 661- 0137.

Voter registration usually closes in the first week of July. So, to allow for glitches in the system, start the process now and be diligent in your follow up to ensure you are registered in time to vote.

Follow up should include, but not be limited to, phone calls and/or emails to Voter Registration and *the Chickasaw Times*. Rita Loder is the contact person for Voter Registration. Rita's email address is rita.loder@chickasaw.net, and her phone numbers are listed above. Vicky Gold is the contact for *the Chickasaw Times*. The email address for *the Chickasaw Times* is times.chickasaw@chickasaw.net and the phone number is (580) 332-2977.

If you have trouble reaching somebody, you can always call headquarters at (580) 436-2603.

Our vote is our voice, and together, we can make our voices heard.

Respectfully,
Katie

Education, heritage preservation, assistance top expenditures

FINANCIAL REPORT

The tribal government caption includes the tribe's general fund and BIA trust funds. The Chickasaw Businesses include all of the businesses and operations of the Department of Commerce. Not included in the financial statements are federally or state funded programs and/or grants and the financial statements of Bank 2 and Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc.

The growing needs of the businesses are taken into account when determining the transfers from the businesses to the general fund. It is vital to the long range mission of the Chickasaw Nation that the businesses continue to grow and diversify.

Revenues of tribal government, other than the transfer from businesses, include motor fuel settlement funds and investment income. Chickasaw Business revenues include gaming revenues net of prizes and other sales revenues from convenience stores, travel plazas, tobacco stores, other tribal businesses as well as rental and investment income.

Tribal expenditures are classified by function. General government includes the maintenance and operations of tribal property, the Chickasaw Times and Governor's and Lt. Governor's offices. Expenditures for education include education scholarships as well as the tribe's division of education. Health expenditures include eye glasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, wellness center, community health clinics, catastrophic medical assistance and other similar programs not covered by federal programs or grants.

The businesses' expenditures are classified as to expenses associated with gaming operation of the tribe and the other businesses of the tribe.

Executive Summary of the Financial Statements of the period ending March 31, 2017

Tribal Government

Revenues and transfers from the businesses for operations and fixed assets totaled \$22.1 million for the month and \$110.5 million year-to-date. Expenditures were \$13.1 million for the month and \$78.3 million year-to-date.

Chickasaw Businesses

Revenue net of gaming prizes through March totaled \$697 million. Net income before the transfers to the Tribal Government was \$148.3 million year-to-date. After transfers to the Tribal Government for capital projects and tribal program operations the net income was \$47.1 million year-to-date. The net income includes all revenue, including amounts reserved for business growth and expansion.

Statement of Net Assets

At March 31, 2017, the tribal government funds had \$377.2 million in cash and investments. Of this amount, \$22.8 million is in the BIA Trust funds. This total does not include any federal program funds.

The businesses had \$305.4 million in cash and investments which is reserved

for accounts payable and business operations.

As of March 31, 2017, tribal operations, excluding federal program funding, had net assets of \$2.31 billion.

Chickasaw Nation Tribal Operations Statement of Revenues and Expenditures For the Six Months Ended March 31, 2017			
	Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Revenues	\$ 9,333,541	697,043,745	706,377,286
Transfers From Businesses To Tribal Government	101,209,830	(101,209,830)	-
Total Funds Available	110,543,371	595,833,915	706,377,286
Expenditures			
General Government	3,783,194	-	3,783,194
Legislature	1,498,322	-	1,498,322
Judiciary	656,606	-	656,606
Education	13,337,798	-	13,337,798
Heritage Preservation	13,282,312	-	13,282,312
Health	9,985,011	-	9,985,011
Youth Services	2,914,019	-	2,914,019
Family Services	7,734,544	-	7,734,544
Nutrition Programs	3,640,558	-	3,640,558
Regulatory	6,680,024	-	6,680,024
Assistance Programs	14,803,934	-	14,803,934
Gaming Expense	-	396,925,375	396,925,375
Other Businesses' Expense	-	151,817,258	151,817,258
Total Expenditures	78,316,321	548,742,633	627,058,954
Increase In Net Assets	32,227,050	47,091,282	79,318,332
Beginning Net Assets	871,188,746	1,355,004,419	2,226,193,164
Ending Net Assets	\$ 903,415,795	1,402,095,701	2,305,511,496
Chickasaw Nation Tribal Operations Statement of Net Assets March 31, 2017			
	Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Cash And Investments	\$ 377,192,984	305,435,088	682,628,073
Receivables	32,808,937	115,121,523	147,930,460
Inventory	31,238	7,583,784	7,615,022
Prepaid Expenses	-	28,022,521	28,022,521
Other Assets	-	1,078,139	1,078,139
Fixed Assets	495,652,898	1,113,256,750	1,608,909,649
Less Payables	(2,270,263)	(168,402,104)	(170,672,367)
Net Assets	\$ 903,415,795	1,402,095,701	2,305,511,496

Our ‘voice of the Chickasaw Nation’ switchboard chief set to retire

Have you ever heard the saying, “All good things must come to an end?” I’m not sure if that is true in all cases, however, it does apply to this story! Recently, the Voice of the Chickasaw Nation, retired! Now that is my moniker for Mrs. Evelyn Thompson. Evelyn was the Switchboard Coordinator for the Chickasaw Nation for the past 12 years. It is possible that you



BETH ALEXANDER

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

may have visited with her too, if you ever called the main number for the Nation. Our relationship developed online long before we ever met! When she answered the phones, her voice always sounded friendly and helpful. I could depend on her to “take care” of me when I called. In my opinion, Evelyn was our front line worker. She was the first person you encountered when you contacted the Chickasaw Nation! This Choctaw/ Cherokee lady has plans for her retirement. Visit and travel with her husband, Johnny, see her great niece and nephew, Phoebe and Luke, and plan adventures with her identical twin sister, Mevelyn, to name a few! I shall miss her positive voice and outstanding ability to know where and who to connect me with throughout the Nation. Let us remember to have patience with the future front line operators of the Chickasaw Nation for they shall have an extremely challenging time filling Evelyn’s position as The Voice of the Chickasaw Nation! Chiholloli and Chi Pisolacho Evelyn! I had to opportunity to attend a Chickasaw Nation Gathering held in Southlake (Dallas/Ft. Worth) area. It was a chance for Chickasaws to learn what services are available for them through the Tribe. One of the most helpful aspects about this event is the ability to have a face to face conversation with knowledgeable workers. If you receive an invitation to attend one of these meetings try to go! Besides gathering information, you can enjoy a wonderful time mingling with other Chickasaws. Thank you to the employees for all the hard work and effort put forth to host these gatherings. I finished off the weekend by attending the Lighthouse Church of Colbert, Oklahoma. Pastor Joe and Ruth Beshirs and their congregation, were celebrating the church’s 9 year anniversary. My how things have grown! The church started with four people and has expanded to a population of 60 members. Their special celebration provided a wonderful video of the previous 9 years and a nice home cooked luncheon to a group of 85 attendees. This church is an active part of our Chickasaw Nation and proudly flies the Tribal flag. Congratulations Lighthouse Church of Colbert! “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” James 1:17



EVELYN THOMPSON

Chickasaw Nation Court Camp coming up in June; 100 students enrolled

Chokma! What an exciting month May 2017 has been for the Judicial Branch. To all seniors, congratulations and I wish you great success in your life’s endeavors. If you have a child graduating this year let them know how proud of their accomplishments you are and graduates take a moment to thank your parents for their support.

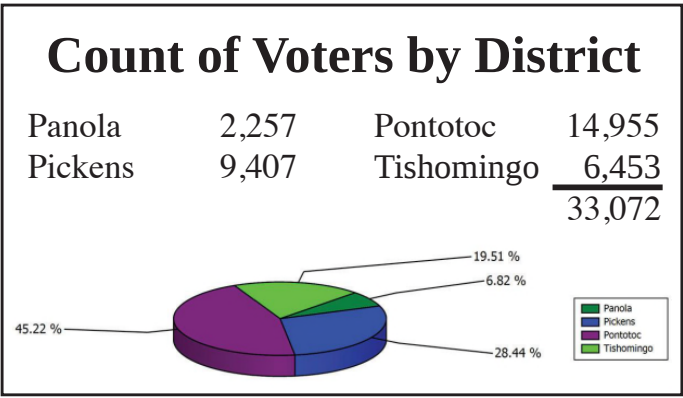


CHERI BELLEFEUILLE-GORDON

Chief Justice Supreme Court

SUPREME COURT NEWS
Chickasaw citizen Terry Holman donated a hand crafted stained glass exhibit to the Supreme Court. We are honored to display another Chickasaw artist through the court. Please come by the court and take a look at this beautiful piece of Chickasaw artwork. YAAKNI’ INAALHPISAAT CHOKMA, Chickasaw Nation court camp is scheduled for June 12 and 13, 2017. This is a two (2) day camp from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., each day. One of our goals is to expose the camp students to the tribal court system in Indian Country. We hope our camp will influence the students to continue their education and to possibly pursue a job in the court system. We currently have 100 kids enrolled. We are also looking for ten (10) volunteers to assist with the group during the camp days, any Chickasaw employee working toward IDP can call Connie Tillery, (580) 235-0281 to volunteer and receive IDP credit. The Judicial Department is very happy to remind you of the establishment of a Judicial Scholarship-Law Student Scholarship. The Justices are honored to be able to give back to the Chickasaw community and to assist our Chickasaw citizens by providing a scholarship to further their education. The scholarship is titled, Chickasaw Nation Judicial Scholarship-Law Student Scholarship. This scholarship has been established for Chickasaw students who are interested in pursuing a career in the legal field. The scholarship is an award per year for an upcoming student attending a college or university that is majoring in legal studies or to a student attending law school. For more information and application please contact Chickasaw Nation Foundation. Justice Mark Colbert, Justice Linda Weeks, District Judge Dustin Rowe, Special Judge Sherry Todd and I have just returned from Scottsdale, Arizona where we spent a few days at the Indian Federal Bar Association Indian Law Conference. This is an annual conference attended by tribal members and lawyers from across the United States. It is always great to be able to exchange opinions with tribal leaders from across the country about issues affecting Native American citizens.

DISTRICT COURT NEWS
On March 28, 2017 the Supreme Court Justices reappointed Sherry Abbott Todd as Special Judge for another three (3) year term. We also recognized employee Ginger Sanders for her 10 years of employment with the tribe. We are very proud of both, Sherry Abbott Todd and Ginger Sanders as wonderful examples of our Chickasaw women. The Judicial Department happily participated in the Children’s Fair Saturday April 1, 2017. We had a great time playing the “Fishing Pond” game with the children. We handed out over 500 “fish” prize bags and the chil-



dren seemed delighted. Each year we enjoy seeing the next generation enjoying themselves. Pictured is Finnley Harrison, daughter of Brian Harrison who works for our Multimedia Department and employee Tiffany Postoak. The Chickasaw Nation Bar Association continuing legal education spring seminar was held on April 28, 2017, at Winstar Convention Center. This was a 1/2 day seminar. The Chickasaw Nation Bar Association consists of attorneys who have taken an oath to uphold the laws of the Chickasaw Nation Code. These are attorneys who are able to practice in our court. The Judicial Department and the Chickasaw Bar Association Chairperson plan these seminars for attorneys as a method of keeping everyone updated on any changes in the Code or important happenings in Indian country. Jason Christopher, attorney from Ada, spoke on the updates in the criminal code of Oklahoma. Joe Balkenbus, Ethics Counsel of the Oklahoma Bar Association, spoke on Ethics and Attorney Well Being. **March 2017 Court Statistics**
· 50 New court cases filed
· 139 Cases heard in court
· 72 Citizens were assisted by court advocates
Again, it is my pleasure to report on a busy and successful month in the Judicial Department. As always, thank you for allowing me to serve as your Chief Justice. It is a privilege and an honor to serve you. CHIPISALA’ CHO ANOWA means “Until I see you again.” Please contact me, I would love to hear from you (580) 235-0281 or cheri.bellefeuille-gordon@chickasaw.net.



From left, Chief Justice Cheri Bellefeuille Gordon, Darla Norvill, Special Judge Sherry Abbott Todd and Supreme Court Justice Linda English Weeks.



Brian Harrison with his daughter, Finnley, and District Court employee Tiffany Postoak.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Chickasaw Nation Legislative Finance Committee will hold a public hearing regarding the Consolidated Tribal Budget for Fiscal Year 2018 on Monday, June 19, 2017, at the Legislative Building, 801 North Mississippi Ave., Ada, Oklahoma, beginning at 6:30 pm. Copies of the proposed budget are available for review at the Legislative Office in Ada. Any Chickasaw citizen may address the Finance Committee at the hearings; provided, the citizen has notified Committee Chair Nancy Elliott in writing of his desire to speak and provides an agenda. A citizen may speak for up to 10 minutes. Chickasaw citizens may also present written comments, recommendations, information or questions at those meetings, provided, those written comments are presented to Committee Chair Nancy Elliott prior to the hearing’s commencement. The meetings shall be held in accordance with Title 10, Section 10-201.6 and following of the Chickasaw Nation Code. The Chickasaw Nation Code can be located at www.Chickasaw.net.

2016-2017 Tribal Legislature

Following is a list of the Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislators including their address and phone numbers. If you have any questions or need any information, please contact the legislator in your area.

Pontotoc District
Seat #

1. Toby Perkins
15810 CR 1569
Ada, OK 74820
(580) 399-2606
Toby.Perkins@chickasaw.net
2. Nancy Elliott
620 Ann
Ada, OK 74820
(580) 399-4374
Nancy.Elliott@chickasaw.net
3. Katie Case
P.O. Box 145
Stonewall, OK 74871
(580) 272-8385
Katie.Case@chickasaw.net
4. Seat of the late Dean McManus
5. Lisa J. Billy
19259 150th Street
Lindsay, OK 73052

Pickens District

Seat #

1. David Woerz
P.O. Box 669
Ardmore, OK 73402
(580) 235-3240
David.Woerz@chickasaw.net
2. Connie Barker
509 SW 7th Ave.
Marietta, OK 73448
(580) 272-4175
Connie.Barker@chickasaw.net
3. Linda Briggs
P.O. Box 241
Marietta, OK 73448
(580) 272-7268
Linda.Briggs@chickasaw.net
4. Shana Tate Hammond
801 North Mississippi
Ada, Oklahoma, 74820
(580) 235-1438
Shana.Hammond@chickasaw.net

Tishomingo District
Seat #

1. Scott Wood
204 East Main Street
Tishomingo, OK 73460
(580) 221-1430
Scott.Wood@chickasaw.net
2. Tim Colbert
P.O. Box 773
Sulphur, OK 73086
(580) 421-7242
Tim.Colbert@chickasaw.net
3. Steven Woods
5071 Gray’s Road
Davis, OK 73030
(580) 272-7270
Steve.Woods@chickasaw.net

Panola District
Seat #

1. Beth Alexander
PO Box 246
Achille, OK 74720
(580) 272-7850
beth.alexander@chickasaw.net
bethalexander22@hotmail.com

Note of Thanks from the family of Dean McManus

To my Chickasaw Family, (the entire Chickasaw Nation), I felt compelled to formally express my thoughts to you after the recent passing of my mother-in-law, Dean McManus. I met, fell in love with and married Karen McManus (now Goodnight) 32 years ago. When we were married I knew I was gaining a new family. She was one of 6 sisters, but what I didn’t know was that I would be marrying into the Chickasaw family. As far as I know, I don’t have a drop of Indian blood, but after all these years, I consider you all my family. Coming from a non-Native American background I have watched and been amazed at how Chickasaws come together and lift up one of your own in times of loss. The kindness, compassion, and love you have shown our family after the loss of our beloved Dean has been the strength that helped us endure. We looked to you in our time of need and you were all there for us in so many ways. You shared our sorrow and shouldered our burden. Speaking on behalf of all of Dean’s family, thank you so much. We love you all. Sincerely, Stan Goodnight and The Dean McManus Family

A heartfelt “thank you” for all of the prayers, and to those who sent cards, gifts, flowers, delicious food, and came to visit us during this very sad and devastating time in our lives. It was such a blessing to have so many friends surround us with love and to provide comfort --it meant the world to us. God bless you all, love Karen, Sherri, Kristina, and the entire McManus family.

‘Being Chickasaw is a special thing’
Korean War veteran fulfills lifelong dream, visits Chickasaw Nation at age 84



CHARLES HOLMES, JR.

Korean War veteran Charles Holmes did not experience a typical Chickasaw upbringing. His mother, Fleta, was a Chickasaw from Purcell, Okla., but the promise of work in the West lured her to Arizona, where in 1925 she met and married a non-Indian man, Charles Holmes, Sr.

“When my mother and dad got married, my father’s family had a hard time accepting her because

of her Indian blood,” Mr. Holmes said. “It seems like there was always conflict with my dad’s side of the family after that.”

The senior Mr. Holmes was a World War I veteran who served four enlistments in the Great War. After Army service, he accepted a job with the border patrol and moved his young family, including his newborn son, Charles Holmes, Jr., to El Paso, Texas.

Even though they were closer to Oklahoma, Mr. Holmes was never taken home to visit, although his mother clearly expressed her love for her people.

“She was proud to be Chickasaw,” Mr. Holmes said. “She always talked about it, and her family, with pride.”

Mr. Holmes world changed when he was nine years old and his father died suddenly. The death left young Charles, his mother and his younger brother to fend for themselves.

That same year, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and the U.S. entered World War II. Mr. Holmes remembers hearing the news that his uncle was drafted into the Army and feeling the need to do something himself.

“I thought, whenever I got grown, I was going to join the service,” he said. “The whole country just seemed to come together during that time. They even had parades when I was in grade school. It was a real patriotic time.”

Mr. Holmes never forgot the pride he felt during the war. When he graduated from high school in May 1951, he finally had the chance to serve his country.

“I had been to California,” he said. “We went up to San Francisco and the ships were leaving out, going to fight in Korea. I made up my mind then to join the Navy.”

Enlisting in the U.S. Navy on July 10, 1951, Mr. Holmes was sent to boot camp. By March 1952, he was stationed on a destroyer off the Korean coast.

“It was our job to protect the carriers, cruisers and battleships from anti-aircraft and anti-submarines along the coastline of Korea,” Mr. Holmes said. “The carriers were sending in the planes and bombs to Korea, so they had to be protected.

“If anything got hit by enemy fire, it was supposed to be us.”

Mr. Holmes served three tours

in Korea and China before being honorably discharged in July 1955.

“When you come home, you don’t really know what to do with yourself,” he said. “You’re really undecided.”

Mr. Holmes married wife Bonnita and moved to Springdale, Ark., in 1959. He worked in a chicken plant and then for a uniform company for 32 years.

Still, he didn’t visit Oklahoma. It took a call from the Chickasaw Nation in 2016 to convince the then 84-year-old Mr. Holmes he should visit his mother’s birthplace.

“I was asked to part of the 2017 veterans’ calendar,” Mr. Holmes said. “It brought up all kinds of feelings.”

Mr. Holmes is the May featured veteran in the 2017 Chickasaw Nation calendar.

Because Mr. Holmes is losing his eyesight, his son, Jack, quickly began planning a trip to the Sooner State, so Mr. Holmes could actually experience all the important places about which his mother had told him.

In Fall 2016, Mr. Holmes, with Bonnita, Jack and daughter-in-law

Darlene, finally made the trip to southern Oklahoma. They stayed at the Artesian Hotel in Sulphur, toured the Chickasaw Cultural Center and visited Mr. Holmes’ mother’s hometown of Purcell.

Mr. Holmes was also invited to Chickasaw Nation headquarters where he was surprised to meet Governor Bill Anoatubby. The Governor shook hands with Mr. Holmes and thanked him for his service to his country.

“I will never forget that for the rest of my life,” Mr. Holmes said. “I was so shocked to see the Governor. I will never forget shaking his hand and getting to thank him for all he has done for the Chickasaw people.”

The road to Oklahoma was a long one for Mr. Holmes, but he says he wants to visit again in the future and hopes to bring more family members.

“Being Chickasaw is a special thing,” he said. “It’s something I want my grandchildren and great-grandchildren to know about and be proud of. I’m certainly proud to be both American and Chickasaw.”

CONTRIBUTED BY Breanne Hill, Public Affairs.

Bo Overton’s basketball journey has led to crowning achievement

Chickasaw coach brings home NAIA national championship

OKLAHOMA CITY – Fresh off a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) national championship – not to mention being named NAIA Division I Coach of the Year – Glenn “Bo” Overton is looking forward to the future.

The Chickasaw citizen’s Oklahoma City University (OCU) women’s basketball team claimed the top spot in national competition in March. Mr. Overton’s team captured its first national championship under his watchful eye with an impressive 73-66 win over Lewis-Clark State College of Lewiston, Idaho.

Mr. Overton became OCU head coach in 2015.

In March, Mr. Overton was traveling west to Phoenix to enjoy the “Final Four” competition for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) national championship, with hopes of seeing underdog Gonzaga – a Spokane, Washington team – take top honors.

“I would like to see a team like Gonzaga, who has been there for years and years, step up and make it happen.” (Gonzaga fell just short, dropping a 71-65 national championship decision to the North Carolina Tar Heels.)

As for his OCU team, almost the entire squad is returning next year and Mr. Overton is thrilled.

“I really like this team that is coming back,” he said. “The core of the national championship team is returning. We’re excited about our prospects.”

Mr. Overton’s reputation as a

player and coach has seen him crisscross the world. Each new “home” both enjoyable and challenging whether in China, Russia, the Bahamas or the U.S.

“We’re (OCU) a smart team,” Mr. Overton said of his squad. “We don’t want other teams to get easy baskets. We want them to earn it. It sounds easy, but it is difficult. You have to work on transition defense and being organized. These are things we work on every day. We work on rebounding. You don’t want to give them second chances. You have to be skilled with the ball on offense. You don’t want to turn the ball over or foul players so they get extra shots.

“If you’re going to play us, you’ve got to earn it,” he added. “We’re not going to give you anything easy.”

HARD WORK PAYS OFF

Mr. Overton has been called a “player’s coach.” It is fitting, especially when he begins speaking on how important it is to work and prepare for moments that may occur once in a lifetime.

“When you put the work in (the) players do, in the classroom and on the court, some of them have been preparing for this their whole life,” he said. “When you can watch them and see all that happen for them, it is very special. When I saw them jumping up and down, holding that trophy up, seeing how proud they were and how proud the school was, it was something that just doesn’t compare with anything else.



Oklahoma City University Head Coach Glenn “Bo” Overton talks with one of his players during a time out.

“Then they got to watch how proud (Oklahoma City) was and then the whole state. We were getting calls from (Gov. Mary Fallin), from OCU President Robert Henry, from the Chickasaw Nation ... I mean just how proud everybody was ... you can’t measure that,” Mr. Overton said. “And with things the way they are today, the team was getting texts, tweets and praise on social media. It was just great.

“They had smiles on their faces for days ... well, I think the smiles are still there.”

FROM STAR TO COACH

Mr. Overton’s coaching style is a culmination of experienc-

es from listening to his father, Claudell Overton, who coached Oklahoma City’s Capitol Hill High School, to being in the company of coaching greats across the nation. In a 1999 interview with *The Oklahoman*, he listed former University of Oklahoma football coach Barry Switzer and former Oklahoma State University storied basketball coach Henry Iba as huge influences.

As a 1979 Ada (OK) High School senior, he was named *The Oklahoman* and *Tulsa World* High School Player of the Year and received the Jim Thorpe Award as the top athlete in Oklahoma.

He was a letterman at OU playing point guard for coaching greats Dave Bliss and Billy Tubbs. At OU, Mr. Overton set records – for minutes played, assists and free-throw percentage. When he graduated, he was drafted by the Phoenix Suns in 1983 and played professional basketball a few years before dedicating himself to coaching.

Mr. Overton returned to Chickasaw Country to start his coaching career. He was head men’s basketball coach and athletic director at Murray State College in Tishomingo. Coaching men, he also was an assistant at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa; Texas State at San Marcos, and Louisiana Tech.

When OU women’s head coach Sherri Coale needed an assistant in 1998, Mr. Overton joined the squad.

From 1998-2004, he contributed to Oklahoma’s dominant program. OU went 143-54 with five NCAA tournament bids, three NCAA Sweet 16 appearances, a 2002 NCAA Final Four berth, a 1999 Women’s National Invitational Tournament appearance, three Big 12 regular-season titles and two conference tournament crowns. OU had five all-Americans and three Big 12 Player of the Year recipients during that time.

“Bo knows basketball,” Ms. Coale said in 2015 when Mr. Overton accepted the OCU job. “He was an integral part of our 2002 run to the national championship game. Oklahoma is his home, and OCU is a natural fit.”

INTERNATIONAL FAME

Oklahoma may be his home, but Mr. Overton spent a great deal of time in locations one would not immediately associate with basketball, such as assistant coach for the Chinese national team in the 2012 Olympics.

He has been a head coach on both college and professional levels, leading Dynamo Kursk in Russia; Guangdong and Liaoning of the Women’s Chinese Basketball Association; the Chicago Sky of the Women’s National Basketball Association in 2007; and the University of Missouri-Kansas City from 2004-06. He also served as assistant for the Bahamas national team.

Experiences abroad solidified his “player’s coach” persona.

“The different cultures of people and their beliefs (abroad) were difficult,” he said. “It was hard for me to make them understand you don’t have to train athletes as hard as they do.

“Their thinking is ‘more is better.’ More jumping, more running, more, more, more. I tried to tell them ‘you’re wearing out the bodies of the athletes.’ They wouldn’t listen to me, of course, but I tried to hit a happy medium.

“When one of the general managers wasn’t paying attention, I would try to take care of the players. I think the players (understood) that and knew I had their best interest in mind. I still have many friends overseas and many of my former players send me messages. I try to always give them reason to smile.”

Concerning his job at OCU, Mr. Overton said “I have a lot of ‘tribe’ at OCU. Not just basketball, but baseball and all of the scholastic athletes we have. You know, growing up in Oklahoma is one of the main pieces in my life. Ada has a lot of pride in their athletics. The (AHS) girls played in the state tournament this year. I am proud to be a part of (Ada’s) winning tradition.”

CONTRIBUTED BY Gene Lehmann, Media Relations.

A message from Little Miss Chickasaw LaKala Orphan



LaKala Orphan
Little Miss Chickasaw

Chokma, Saholchifo’at LaKala Orphan.

Hello, I am LaKala Orphan, the 2016-2017 Little Miss Chickasaw. I am the 12-year-old daughter of Ray and LaTonia Orphan, and sister of Roddrik Orphan. I am in the sixth grade at Byng Elementary. It is an honor and a privilege

to serve as an ambassador for the Chickasaw Nation.

Over the past few months, we have attended the Chickasaw Nation Elders Thanksgiving and Christmas luncheons where we performed the Lord’s Prayer and helped serve the Elders.

In November, we went to visit the Chickasaw Homeland in Tupelo, Mississippi. Fellow Chickasaw LaDonna Brown was our tour guide. We took a tour of the Chickasaw Preserve/Chisha’Talla’a’, Natchez Trace Parkway Chickasaw Village site and of Longtown/Immokakinafa to name a few of the interesting places we were able to learn about during our trip. We also visited Tishomingo State Park. What beautiful scenery along with a beautiful waterfall!

In December, we attended the Children’s Christmas Celebration in Tishomingo. I handed out teddy bears to the children who were there to meet Santa.

In January, I read to all the children at the Ada Chickasaw Nation Head Start, taking part in the Reading is Fundamental - Twice a Upon a Time Reading Challenge.

In February, we attended the Oklahoma Tribal Legislative Reception and performed the Lord’s Prayer. My highlight of the evening was meeting Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin. Some of the events we have attended had a reception with very delicious food!

I am happy that I got to spend time with the Chickasaw Princess, Julie Underwood and Chickasaw Jr. Princess, KeKe Factor. I am having an awesome time as Little Miss Chickasaw. I look forward to many more events while traveling to exciting places.

Chokmaski,
LaKala Orphan
2016-2017
Little Miss Chickasaw Princess

Free legal clinic on wills and trusts, ‘Ask A Lawyer’ session open to Indian citizens May 19 in Ardmore

ARDMORE, Okla. - Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc., will conduct a free clinic on wills and estate planning May 19 in Ardmore.

The session will also include an “Ask A Lawyer” portion for questions on any legal matter. This clinic is completely free and open to the public.

The clinic will run from 10

a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday, May 19 at the Ardmore Senior Center, 2420 Chickasaw Blvd.

If you need to see an attorney, please call Norma at (405) 943-6457, Monday through Thursday to set an appointment.

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc., is a non-profit group that serves low income tribal citizens who are residents of Oklahoma.

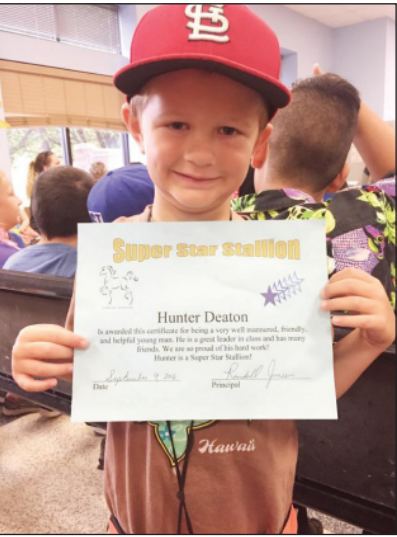
BIRTHDAYS



Four generations of Chickasaws

Wanda Jean Wyce (Stick) turned 90 March 23, 2017. Pictured with her are four generations of Chickasaws. From left, daughter Melinda Ward, great-grandson Briar Ross, granddaughter Torri Lewis, Wanda Jean Wyche, granddaughter Rheysa Ross and grandson Wyatt Ross. Mrs. Wyce was born March 23, 1927.

Hunter Deaton wins Super Star Stallion Award at Schwartz Elementary



HUNTER DEATON

Hunter Deaton, a Chickasaw youth, was recently given the Super Star Stallion award at Schwartz Elementary in the Mid-Del (OK) School District for his kindergarten class. Hunter was cited for being “very well mannered, friendly, and a helpful young man.” He was also cited for being a “great leader in class, having many friends, and working hard in class daily.” He is the son of Michael and T.J. Deaton and grandson of Chickasaw elder, Philip Wiseman and his wife Pat.

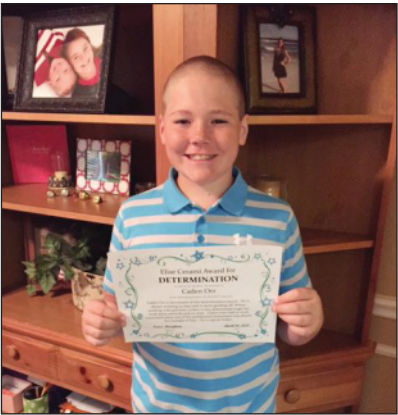
Chickasaw junior tabbed for West Point event



BLAKE HAVERN

A Chickasaw high school student has been selected to attend a leadership event at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. Blake Havern, a junior at The Woodlands (TX) High School, was chosen to attend West Point’s Summer Leaders Experience in June. He will attend with about 1,000 fellow high school students. The one-week seminar helps juniors with their college selection process, and emphasizes development of leadership capabilities. Attendees participate in virtual reality war simulation, and military and physical fitness training. Also, participants may choose to attend any three of 15 offered workshops. The U.S. Military Academy at West Point traces its roots to 1801 when President Thomas Jefferson directed that plans be set in motion to establish the academy at West Point. The institution has a long and storied history of preparing young men and women for military service. Most graduates are commissioned second lieutenants in the U.S. Army upon graduation.

Determination Award goes to Caden Orr on vote of classmates



CADEN ORR

Caden Orr, was recently voted by his classmates to receive the Determination Award for the third grading period of the 2016-2017 school year. Caden attends sixth grade at Durham Intermediate School in Southlake, Texas. Caden is the son of David and Paula Orr, of Grapevine, Texas, and the grandson of Joe and Brenda Orr, of Frederick, Okla.

Chickasaw wins Rookie Auctioneer competition



JUSTIN C. KNIGHT

Congratulations to Justin C. Knight of Talihina, Okla., for winning the 2017 Oklahoma State Auctioneer Association Rookie Bid Calling Competition on February 24, 2017. Justin is a recent graduate of the World Wide College of Auctioneering and is a proud citizen of the Chickasaw Nation. He truly appreciates the support of the Chickasaw Nation Career Technology Program helping fund his education. Please feel free to contact Justin for any and all your auction needs (918) 429-9451.

Tribe honored by okc.BiZ with ‘Best of Business’

Business group okc.BIZ recently recognized the Chickasaw Nation with several “Best of Business 2017” awards. The Chickasaw Retreat & Conference Center and the Artesian Hotel Casino & Spa, both in Sulphur, Okla., were recognized as “Best Places for a Company Retreat.” The Chickasaw Nation Department of Health was recognized in the “Best Business-Related Non-profits” category. The awards were presented at the okc.BIZ awards luncheon in Oklahoma City March 16.



Worcesters celebrate 35th anniversary

Happy 35th anniversary, Roy and Dinah Worcester! May 14, 2017 marks 35 years of when two Chickasaw families came together to join as one. Roy Worcester is the son of late Cecil “Butch” Worcester and late Audra Faye “Dumpy” Cravatt-Worcester. He is the grandson of original enrollees Arlington Telle Worcester, Nora Colbert, and Fred Cravatt. Dinah Shirl Walker-Worcester is

the daughter of late Virgil “Bonnis” Walker and late Sarah Jane Alexander-Walker. She is the granddaughter of original enrollees Amon Walker, Adeline Nelson, William “Willie” Alexander and Jane Dixon. Together they have always made family time a priority in their lives and set a great example of what it means to be Chickasaw. They have four children, Michael Worcester, Tonya

Bierce, Tesia Worcester, Jeremiah Worcester; five grandchildren Ashton Bierce, Jakobi Worcester, Jerin James, Olivia Worcester, Enoch Worcester; a son-in-law James Bierce and daughter-in-law Reichelle Worcester. A special message from All. “Thank you for continuing to teach us the meaning of family, work, patience and love. We love you and your crazy old ways!”



DEVON MACCOLLISTER

Chickasaw ballplayer on AAU state champion team

EDMOND, Okla. - A young Chickasaw ballplayer was recently part of a team that won a state basketball tournament. Devon MacCollister is a fifth-grader at Homer Elementary School in Ada, Okla. His team, the Future Star Athletics, won the Oklahoma Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Boys State Basketball Sixth-Grade Division tournament in April. The Athletics won the championship with a 41-34 victory over OK Swarm-Spencer. With the win, Devon and his team will compete in the AAU Nationals in Florida in July. The Athletics team focus is enhancing basketball skills as well as teaching self-confidence, self-esteem, discipline and general fitness. We are very proud of all the players for their dedication and work ethic. Devon is the son of Stacie MacCollister, and the grandson of Chickasaw elder Joanna MacCollister, all of Ada.

Emmerson Family Reunion, June 11 at Mill Creek

Sunday, June 11, 2017
Mill Creek School Cafeteria
Lunch served at 12:30 p.m.
Bring your favorite covered dish
For more information contact Deb Hook at (580) 618-1073 or Teresa Bolin at (580) 504-6844.

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Arpelar Family Reunion June 3 in McAlester

A reunion of the Arpelar family is scheduled for June 3 in McAlester, Okla. The family name is Arpelar, and it was also spelled Arpealer or Apela. There are other family names and you may be kin to the Arpelars. We may be kin to the Perrys, roll number 300, and Per-

ry Brown, roll number 3020. Also, Durants may well be related. Please bring your favorite covered dish. For directions and more information, please call Bobbie Johnson at (918) 423-5910 or Gina Arpelar at (918) 509-0599.

Foundation Spring 2017 scholarship recipients

The Chickasaw Foundation is pleased to announce Spring 2017 scholarship recipients.

Brandon Postoak is the recipient of the Chickasaw Foundation Grants. He is a graduate student at Oklahoma State University majoring in biomedical science.

Jessica Cox is the recipient of the Mitch Sperry Memorial Scholarship. She is a graduate student at Oklahoma City University majoring in law.

Jace Eidson is the recipient of the Donald D. and J. Wenonah Gunning Memorial Scholarship. He is a freshman at the University of Oklahoma majoring in meteorology.

Barrett J. Huey is the recipient of the James Michael “Mike” Dunn Memorial Scholarship. He is a sophomore at the University of Oklahoma majoring in environmental sustainability.

Celia Miroglio is the recipient of the Janie Hardwick Benson Memorial Scholarship. She is a senior at Texas Woman’s University pursuing a bachelor’s degree in nursing.

Jace Garrison is the recipient of the Colbert Scholarship. He is a freshman at Oklahoma Baptist University majoring in education.

Kelsee Crawley is a recipient of the Chickasaw Foundation Grants. She is a sophomore at Oklahoma State University majoring in natural resources management and wildlife ecology.

Kelli Case is the recipient of the Wesley D. Brantley, Jr. Scholarship. She is a junior at Oklahoma State University majoring in agribusiness.

Kyle Hoyle is a recipient of the Chickasaw Foundation Grants. He is a freshman at Oklahoma City University majoring in business administration.

Rebecca Mayes is the recipient of the Edward L. Kruger Memorial Ittish Aaisha’ Scholarship. She is a graduate student at the Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and is a pharmacy major.

Radio GM Roger Harris elected to NAB board

Roger Harris, general manager of five commercial radio stations owned by the Chickasaw Nation, has recently been elected to the National Association of Broadcasters board. The NAB is the primary trade organization and advocacy group for the U.S. television and radio industry. “This puts the Chickasaw Nation on yet another national stage along with major players in American broadcasting like CBS, Fox and Cox Communications,” Mr. Harris said. “The business of

media and radio keeps changing dramatically. Gov. Anoatubby has always tasked us with expanding and, more importantly, improving. Being on the NAB board will enable us to meet that criteria.” Mr. Harris served 17 years in a similar capacity with the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters, including one year as the group’s chairman. He has been in the broadcasting industry for 38 years. “Free over-the-air radio and TV are still the major media choice of consumers,” he said. “The NAB is the watchdog to help us stay in business and serve the public interest.” The NAB advocates for the television and radio industry among Members of Congress and the Federal Communications Commission.

Pakanli Faye Ramsey



Pakanli Faye Ramsey is a 2017 graduate of Ada High School, Ada, Oklahoma. She is the 17-year old daughter of Jennifer Watson and sister of Nayukpa Ramsey from Ada. She is the granddaughter of Donna Watson, of McAlester, Okla., and Ronnie Watson, of Talihina, Okla.

Pakanli is active in the school marching band and concert band. She is a member of the Oklahoma Indian Honor Society, Oklahoma Honor Society and National Honor Society and was named the 2010 JOM Student of the Year for her sophomore class. She was also the stage manager of the Ada High School Performing Arts production of “The Little Mermaid”.

Pakanli plans to pursue a degree in film and media studies after graduation.

Tyrell Hatton



Tyrell Hatton is a 2017 graduate of Byng High School, Ada, Okla. He is the son of Eren Hatton and Bobby Walker. He is the grandson of Bobby and Tanis Hatton, of Ada and Nathan and Carlita Walker, of Duncan, Okla. Tyrell is the 3rd great-grandson of original enrollee, Nannie Wade Leslie.

Tyrell is a very determined hard worker and has interests in pursuing a career with the U.S. Railroad system. He also enjoys working out, weight lifting, and playing basketball.

CONGRATULATIONS TYRELL, You Did It! Time to tackle new goals and dreams. Your journey has just begun. Good luck, you deserve the best out of life and we'll be with you all the way! We Love You - Mom

Cole Lewis

Cole Lewis is a 2017 graduate of Grapevine Faith Christian School, Grapevine, Texas. He is the son of Jerry and Shelly Lewis, of Southlake, Texas and the grandson of Jerry and Judy Lewis.

Cole was an active member of the soccer team and a member of the state championship team. For soccer he was named to the first team All State, Defensive Player of the Year, and First Team All District. He was the kicker for the school football team and a member of the championship team his senior year. He was named to the All State Team and All State District Team in football. He was a member of student council and has visited other countries on mission trips.

Cole will attend the Colorado School of Mines where he will study petroleum engineering and kick for their football team.



Madison Shiloh Edgar

Madison Shiloh Edgar is a 2017 graduate of Norman High School, Norman Okla. She is the daughter of Leslie Wayne Edgar Jr. and Deana Lynn Edgar, of Norman and the granddaughter of Leslie Wayne Edgar Sr. and Linda Sue Edgar, of Sulphur, Okla., Linda McDonald, of Wilson, Okla. and the late Gary McDonald. She is the great-granddaughter of original enrollee Jacob James.

Madison attended Community Christian School in Norman throughout elementary and middle school. She transferred to Norman High School her freshman year to take advanced placement (AP) courses to better prepare for college. She holds a 4.42 grade point average (GPA) and is number one in her class. While attending Norman High School, Madison participated in cheer four years serving as cheer captain both junior and senior years and served as senior class historian. She is a certified Red Cross lifeguard and teaches swim classes and lifeguards for the Baptist Missionary Association of Oklahoma. She is a member of the Native American Honor Society, National Honor Society, German Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and Christians on Campus. Madison is a Chickasaw citizen and a member of the Chickasaw Pehilici Ikbi (Creating Chickasaw Leaders) program.

Madison was recently accepted to six of the eight Ivy League Universities, including Dartmouth College, Cornell, Columbia, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, and Yale. In addition to the Ivy Leagues she was also accepted to College of William and Mary, Southern Methodist University, Pepperdine, and the University of Colorado at Boulder. Her plans are to major in Business and International Relations.



Savannah Rhee-Anne Irwin



Savannah Rhee-Anne Irwin is a 2017 graduate of Booker T. Washington High School, Tulsa. She is the daughter of Mark and Tiffani Irwin, of Tulsa, and the sister of Mason Luke Irwin.

Savannah's involvement in school included Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) where she served as Operations Support Squadron Commander and was the deputy corps commander her senior year. In 2017 the Booker T. Washington ROTC Core won first place overall at the annual Tulsa Public School's annual drill meet. Savannah also was involved with the Booker T. Washington Sexual Orientation Freedom Alliance club.

Savannah has committed to the U.S. Air Force, and will report for duty shortly after graduation.

Her mother and I are so proud of the young woman Savannah has become. Her kindness and wisdom are Savannah's greatest strengths and we are anxious to see what great things the future holds for her.

Gus Miller



Gus Miller is a 2017 Graduate of Latta High School, Ada, Okla. He is the son of Michael and Melissa Miller. He is the grandson of Jimmy and Faye Miller and J.D. and Ila Mae Hamilton.

Gus enjoys playing basketball and hanging out with his family and friends.

He plans to start working for the Chickasaw Nation after graduation.

Tyler Edgar



Tyler Edgar is a 2017 graduate of Sulphur High School, Sulphur, Okla. He is the son of Steven and Stacy Edgar. He is the grandson of Chris and Alberta Edgar and Marvin and Regeana McCracken.

He has achieved many accomplishments both on and off the field. He was a 3-year starter on the Bulldog football team where he was named All-District Defensive player of the year, All-Area Lineman of the year and All-Star lineman for the state of Oklahoma. In powerlifting, he placed first at regional in the 220 weight class, third at the state powerlifting meet and was a member of the State Championship Class 3-A powerlifting team. He was a junior high state champion for powerlifting his freshman year of high school. He is a starter on the Bulldog baseball team and plays left field and pitches. Tyler is a member of the National Honor Society and on the Principal's Honor Roll. He is a member of Crossway Baptist Church of Sulphur where he is involved in Oasis and a member of the Student Leadership team.

Tyler plans on attending East Central University next year, but is undecided on a major.

Lynze Fay Anderson

Lynze Fay Anderson is a 2017 graduate of Kingston High School, Kingston, Okla. She is the daughter of VJ Anderson and Brian Anderson. She is the granddaughter of Dale and Edith Wren, of Madill, Okla., and Mike and Barbara Anderson, of Fillmore, Okla.

Lynze is a concurrent student at Murray State College, Tishomingo, Okla. Her academic adventures from kindergarten to senior encompass public schools in both Tishomingo and Kingston, and two private schools in Ajijie, Mexico.

She is a member of the National Honor Society, National Society of High School Scholars, Chickasaw Nation Honor Club and the Kingston High School Academic Team.

Awards she has received during her school years include: a Tuition Wavier Scholarship from Murray State College (Honor Roll for Concurrent Classes), The President's Award for Excellence in 2015-2016 and second place at Murray State College Curriculum Contests for Art in 2015-2016 and 2016-2017.

She participated in Tournament of Champions, Family Career Consumer Leaders of America (FCCCLA) and volunteered in 4H and Madill Library Summer Reading Programs and Seasonal Public Programs.

Lynze's interests range from light to dark, life and death – she especially enjoys creating gothic makeup looks and fashions and intends to pursue a degree in medical/mortuary sciences, becoming a mortician and eventually managing her own business as a funeral director.



Jasmine Rocha

Jasmine Rocha is a 2017 graduate of Sulphur High School, Sulphur, Okla. She is the daughter of Jose and Amy Rocha.

I am so proud of her for overcoming the obstacles life threw at her. She is a very strong young lady.

Jasmine plans to attend Rose State College, Midwest City, Okla., to pursue a degree in criminal justice.



Ryan Glenn Taylor



Ryan Glenn Taylor is a 2017 graduate of Tishomingo High School, Tishomingo, Okla. He is the son of Lorene Brown Taylor and Richard Taylor. He is the grandson of the late Cecil and Ahnawake Taylor, of Durwood and Caroline Krebbs of Tishomingo.

Ryan was a state track finalist three years, played football four years and was first team cornerback District 2A. He enjoys going to church at Crystal Rock Cathedral in Ardmore.

His plans are to work for the Chickasaw Nation and become a physical therapist.

Zachariah Burke-Cox



Zachariah Burke-Cox is a 2017 graduate of Kingston High School, Kingston, Okla. He is the son of Jeremiah and Brandi Cox ,of Kingston and Ruby Burke, of San Antonio. Zach has been active in football and powerlifting most of his high school career. He plans are to take a year off from school to travel, save money, and pursue his hobbies. Upon beginning his journey in higher education, he plans to pursue a career in gun-smithing or auto body repair.



Malia Landrum

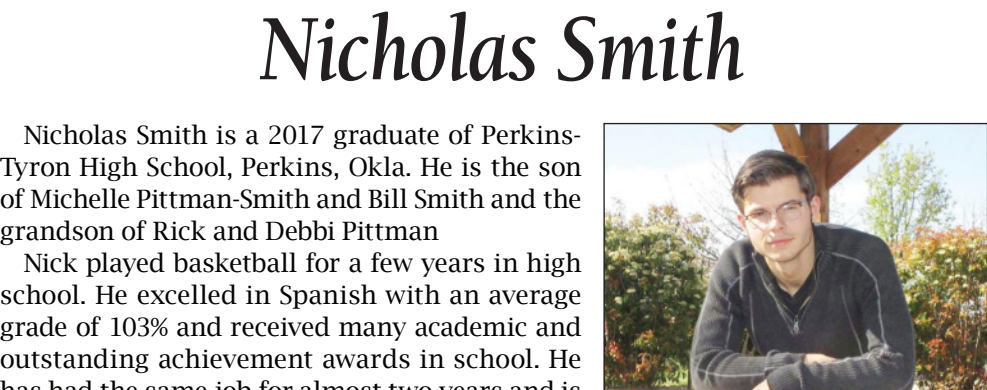
Malia Landrum is a 2017 graduate of Southmoore High School, Moore, Okla. She is the daughter of Duane and Carrie Landrum. She is the granddaughter of Timmy and Patty Griffin and the late Tammy and Mary Landrum, and the great-granddaughter of Martha Hill and the late Fred Hill and Don and Marian Griffin. Malia has been active in the color/winter guard for the Southmoore Marching Band all four years of high school. She was involved in the school National Honor Society and the Link Crew leadership program her junior and senior year. Her plans are to attend Oklahoma City Community College.



Faith Melton

Faith Melton is a 2017 valedictorian graduate of Collinsville High School, Collinsville, Okla. She is the daughter of Dana and Frank Melton. She is the great-granddaughter of Louise and Warren Fillmore, and great-great-granddaughter of Ella and Marcum Fillmore. She is vice president of FCCLA, Soprano 2/Alto 1 in the Collinsville High School choir, historian of her Technology Student Association (TSA) chapter, a two-year member of National Technical Honor Society (NTHS), captain of Collinsville Cherokee Language and challenge bowl teams, a 4-year member of Oklahoma Indian Student Honor Society (OISHS), an Indian education aide, a peer tutor at Collinsville High School, and a volunteer for the Akdar Shrine Circus.

She plans to pursue a registered nursing degree at either Tulsa Community College, the University of Tulsa, or the University of Oklahoma. Then, her plans include working as a registered nurse while continuing her education to finish a degree in biology on the pre-medicine track. Her goal is to become a surgeon in either the cardiovascular field or the orthopedic field. After achieving that goal of becoming a surgeon she wants to either work with the Shriners Hospital for Children or with Doctors Without Borders to help underprivileged kids.



Nicholas Smith

Nicholas Smith is a 2017 graduate of Perkins-Tyron High School, Perkins, Okla. He is the son of Michelle Pittman-Smith and Bill Smith and the grandson of Rick and Debbi Pittman. Nick played basketball for a few years in high school. He excelled in Spanish with an average grade of 103% and received many academic and outstanding achievement awards in school. He has had the same job for almost two years and is very goal oriented. We could not be more proud of him and his accomplishments thus far and look forward to seeing what the future has in store for him. *We love you son! Mom and Dad*



Kayla Hoyle

Kayla Hoyle is a 2017 graduate of Little Elm High School, Little Elm, Texas. She is the daughter of Darin Hoyle and Kathy Thompson and step-father Kenny Thompson. She is the granddaughter of Wesley Hoyle, Lorenzo Fores, Paula McFarland and Jerry and Janet Thompson. Kayla attended Little Elm High School for four years, she served as Health Occupations Students of American (HOSA) secretary and president. She is a Ronald Reagan Leadership Award recipient and was named Practicum Student of the Year. Kayla plans to attend Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas where she will study nursing and pursue entering a program to complete her nurse practitioner or physician's Assistant certification.

Caleb Matthew Smith

Caleb Matthew Smith is a 2017 graduate of Anglican International School of Jerusalem. He is the son of Pastors Robert and Carrie Smith. He is the grandson of Dean and Cynthia Nichols Alexander. Caleb is the great-great-great grandson of original Dawes enrollee Sarah Lottie Stewart, the great-great-grandson of Joseph B. Nichols, the great-grandson of Robert E. Nichols, and the grandson of Ed and Cynthia A. Nichols Smith Alexander. Caleb participated in Model United Nations, Tel Aviv, Israel, Habitat for Humanity, Portugal, school debate team, Battle of the Bands, and many more exciting adventures. Caleb is looking forward to attending Bard College in Berlin, Germany.

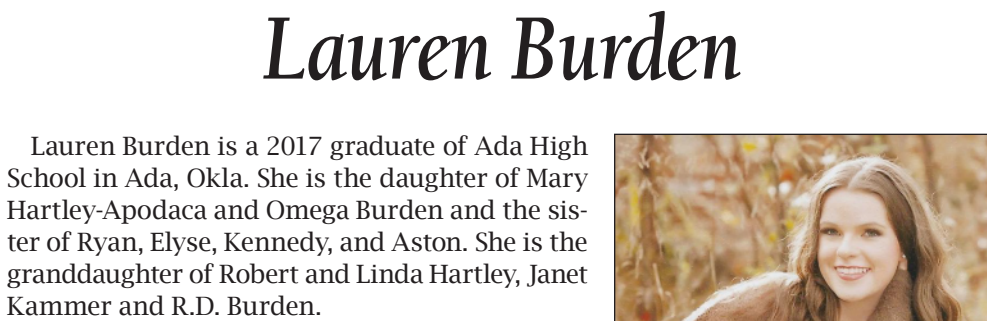


Kyleigh Madison Brown



Kyleigh Madison Brown is a 2017 graduate of Yukon High School, Yukon, Okla. She is the daughter of Kary and David Brown. She is the granddaughter of Brenda Epperson and the late Lloyd Epperson, Marilyn and the late David Brown. She is the great-granddaughter of Faye Elmore Grounds and the late Doug Grounds and the great-great-granddaughter of original enrollee Charles A. Brown. Kyleigh is a member of the National Honor Society, Oklahoma Indian Student Honor Society, Chickasaw Honor Club, President's Education Award, Superintendent's Honor Roll, High Honors and has maintained at least a 4.0 grade point average (GPA) throughout middle and high school. She has played volleyball since third grade and was the captain on her high school and her competitive volleyball teams.

Kyleigh has been in competitive choir since seventh grade in regular women's chorale and recently honor choir, Colla Voce. The Yukon Colla Voce ensemble won best in state, Double Sweepstakes Accent Award and Best Choir Championship in Texas April 2017. Since Kyleigh was a first grader, her dream was to be a veterinarian. Her love and passion for animals will lead her to attending Oklahoma State University for Animal Sciences through Veterinarian Medicine in Stillwater, Oklahoma. "There is a flame that never dies. Even the darkest night will end and the sun will rise."-Victor Hugo



Lauren Burden

Lauren Burden is a 2017 graduate of Ada High School in Ada, Okla. She is the daughter of Mary Hartley-Apodaca and Omega Burden and the sister of Ryan, Elyse, Kennedy, and Aston. She is the granddaughter of Robert and Linda Hartley, Janet Kammer and R.D. Burden. She played one doubles on her varsity tennis team, and won state in 2016 in two doubles. This year her tennis team has the chance to play for their fourth consecutive state title. Lauren has been active with the Ada High varsity tennis team, Chickasaw Nation tennis team, a student council senior representative, Vision Bank Student Board of Directors, math club, science club, Spanish club, Native American club, National Honor Society serving as president, participant in the volunteer/volunteer program for Mercy Hospital, and a junior coach for tennis camps in the summer. She also received several awards including Torch and Laurel scholar, National Society of High School Scholars, AP scholar with honors recipient, Wendy Heisman's High School female school winner, National Math and Science Initiative Award recipient, National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists Leadership ambassador, Oklahoma Indian Student Honor Society, Governor's Honor Roll, R.U.S.H. Queen 2016, Class 4A girls state tennis championship No. 2 Doubles team, J.O.M. Student of the Year 2015, a People2People student ambassador and recipient of Diane Jacob Most Useful Student Award. Lauren has been accepted to Dartmouth College for the fall. Her plans are to pursue a degree in environmental science and environmental studies.

Connor McCain

Connor McCain is a 2017 graduate of Westmoore High School, Oklahoma City. He is the son of Eddy and Jennifer McCain. He is the grandson of Robert and Carol Dennis and Conrad and Peggy Doty. Connor is a witty and loving individual. He is adored by his parents, four older brothers, grandparents, and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins. He will graduate high school with 4.0+ grade point average and having completed his first year of college through AP credits. He will go on to study history at the University of North Texas on a full National Merit Scholarship. Throughout high school, he has earned many awards, both academic and in music. Connor plays trombone and bass trombone and marched with the Pride of Westmoore. He qualified for CODA Honor Band three times, OBA All-Star Jazz Band, and OMEA All-State his senior year. He was selected to participate in OSAI at Quartz Mountain. Connor hopes to earn a master's degree and Ph.D. in history. He hopes to teach at the collegiate level and become a historical writer. He would like to write books which are easily accessible and understood by both scholars and non-scholars. He would like to pass on the knowledge of applying history for the improvement of our lives as individuals and as a society. His family and friends are very proud of all he has done and who he has become. We cannot wait to see what great things he will accomplish!



Caleb Elijah Austin Wright



Caleb Elijah Austin Wright is a 2017 graduate of Central High School, Marlow, Okla. He is the son of Steve and Tami Wright. He is the grandson of Dr. W.D. James and the late Sharon James, the late Jim Wright and Wynn Ann Wright. Caleb was active in football, basketball and baseball. He attends Biomedical Science Academy, serves as vice president of his senior class and will graduate salutatorian. He is an active member of Health Occupations Students of American (HOSA) and NTHS. His plans are to attend Oklahoma State University as an undergraduate in the pre-vet program then attend vet school.

Macy Erin Johnson

Macy Erin Johnson is a 2017 graduate of Dickson High School, Dickson, Okla. She is the daughter of Kimberly Johnson, Ardmore, Okla. She is the granddaughter of Wanda Johnson and the great-granddaughter of the late Calvin Johnson.

Macy was a member of the varsity cheer team. She attended the medical assistant program at Southern Oklahoma Technology Center and earned her certification in First Aid/CPR, CNA, and phlebotomy and is a member of the National Technical Honor Society.

Her plans are to attend the University of Oklahoma in Norman, to obtain a bachelors of science degree in nursing. Her future plans are to work in an emergency medical trauma center.



Lucas Baykal



Lucas Baykal is a 2017 graduate of Edmond Memorial High School, Edmond, Okla. He is the son of Jana and Turgut Baykal and the grandson of Laveta Dryden.

He attended Francis Tuttle to pursue an IT career studying network technology and will study IT Management at East Central University, Ada, Okla.

Lucas would like to thank the Chickasaw Nation for supporting him in his educational pursuits.

Bret Gardner Keel



Bret Gardner Keel is a 2017 graduate of Edmond North High School, Edmond, Okla. He is the son of Don and Jill Keel. He is the grandson of Don and Joyce Keel and Ken and Margaret Kysar.

Bret has been passionate about his art and wood tech classes throughout high school. For the past two years, his art work has been recognized by the Young Talent in Oklahoma high school art exhibit. Bret's wood working skills have earned him blue ribbons at state competitions. He has taken several AP classes and has had a successful high school career.

He plans to attend Oklahoma State University in the fall to major in architecture. He is looking forward to spending time at OSU with his older brother, Austin, who will be entering his senior year in the fall.

It has been a joy to watch Bret grow up from a boy to a young man, and we can't wait to see what exciting things that his future holds!

Brady James Jett



Brady James Jett is a 2017 graduate of Hobbs High School, Hobbs, N.M. He is the son of Chris and Kim Jett. He is the grandson of the late Jimmie J. Jordan and Patsy Jordan

Brady was a three year participant in Hobbs football, Hobbs wrestling, Hobbs track and field and Hobbs High School golf team. He received the Pursuing Victory with Honor for Wrestling, receiving high school letter awards for each sport.

Brady's accumulated grade point average is 3.6 (GPA) and he has been accepted to Lubbock Christian University for the fall of 2017 with a starter scholarship with the golf program.

His extracurricular activities include youth ministry and volunteering at his home church, Crosswinds Community Church in Hobbs, where he has participated many years with World Changers and Operation Homefront.

His plans are to be in the ministry sharing and teaching his faith with others.

Kamryn Paige Randolph

Kamryn Paige Randolph is a 2017 graduate of Ringwood High School, Ringwood, Okla. She is the daughter of Steve and Michelle Randolph. She is the granddaughter of Bobby and Leah Kilcrease, Shirley and Thomas Graham and Sharon and Danny Randolph. She is the granddaughter of Ira Kilcrease and Pauline Wylie. Kamryn has two siblings, Katelyn and Kyanne Randolph.

Kamryn is active in Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCLA), FCCLA, pep club and her local youth group. She sings on the praise team at the Faith Center. In high school Kamryn was active in sports. She is a four-year letter in cross country, fast pitch and slow pitch softball, basketball, track and a one-year letter in cheer. During her athletic career she has earned several honors including two-time Cherokee Strip All Conference fast pitch, Tri County All Conference fast pitch, All District softball, Enid News and Eagle NW District softball, All Region fast pitch, Oklahoma All State alternate fast pitch, Orient All Conference basketball, Cherokee Strip basketball honorable mention, K101 Classic Bowl All Star basketball selection, cross country state qualifier, and state track qualifier. Kamryn leaves Ringwood High School holding two school records for most doubles hit in a single season and most steals in a single season.

Her future plans are to attend Northern Oklahoma College and pursue a degree in special education. Her passion is to work with children with special needs.



Lex Love



Lex Love is a 2017 graduate of Bowie High School, Bowie, Texas. He is the son of Jeff Love, of Sunset and Shelly and Danny Hamrick, of Sulphur, Okla. He is the grandson of Wylie Hill, of Davis, Okla., and Donnie Love and Camille Berger, of Port Aransas Texas.

Les was active in football for four years.

He plans to attend basic college courses at North Central Texas College, Gainesville, Texas.

Kenzie Holland

Kenzie Holland is a 2017 graduate of Carl Albert High School, Midwest City, Okla. She is the daughter of Jeff and Christie Holland. She is the granddaughter of Dave and Betty Holland and Gary and Billie Bozarth.

Kenzie carried a 4.0 grade point average (GPA) and will serve as valedictorian of her graduating class. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Chickasaw Honor Club, Academic Letter, Student Leadership, FCA, volleyball, track, volunteer for Special Olympics, Superintendents Student Advisory Board and STUCO secretary.

She plans to attend Rose State College on a Student Leadership Scholarship and then transfer to the University of Central Oklahoma and major in Speech Pathology.



Mia Christina Record



Mia Christina Record is a 2017 graduate of Norman High School, Norman, Okla. She is the daughter of Caryn and Kerry Record. She is the granddaughter of Linda and Charles Goodman (Chickasaw) and Glorianne & Charlie Record (Yuchi-Creek).

Mia is a happy graduate of Norman High School. She is a member of the Chickasaw Nation and is also Yuchi-Creek.

Her family is so proud of this accomplishment in Mia's life and is excited to move forward with her as she grows and develops into an even more beautiful young lady.

We love you!
Congratulations!

Audrey Brooke Courtney

Audrey Brooke Courtney, of DeLeon Springs, Fla., is a 2017 graduate. She is the daughter of Bernard N. Courtney Jr., and Sheri E. Courtney. She is the granddaughter of Bernard N. Courtney Sr. and Janet K. Courtney and the great-granddaughter of Willie Courtney and Mattie Lee Courtney.

Audrey carries 3.8 grade point average (GPA). She is a concurrent student at Daytona State College and is pursuing her associate's degree in nursing to become a registered nurse. Since her junior year, she has worked at Chick-Fil-A and is currently working a second job as a secretary for a private construction company.

Audrey is a very outgoing, kind and giving young lady. For several years she has worked with public school children in the after school program The Good News Club. She is very active in community service and ministries within her local church including the nursery, VBS, nursing home, and public evangelism. Among her peers, she is a leader and mentor, especially within her church youth group.

Audrey loves to sing, play violin, but ultimately, she loves telling others about her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Acts 16:31



Nathaniel Branson Pulliam



Nathaniel (Nate) Branson Pulliam is a 2017 graduate of Ada High School, Ada, Okla. He is the son of Brandon and Sabrina Pulliam. He is the grandson of Kent and Pat Pulliam, of Sulphur, Okla., and Don and Barbara Boswell, of Yale, Okla., and Bernie and Stacy Hargenrader, of Houma, La. He is the great-grandson of Roscoe Pulliam, of Ardmore, Okla., and Carl Courson, of Clarion, Pa.

Nate has been active in both band and soccer at Ada High, he earned his Eagle rank and three Eagle Palms with Troop 4 Ada.

Nate has been taking college courses since last summer and has completed 18 credit hours with East Central University.

Nate will report for duty with the Marine Corps this summer in San Diego, Ca. Nate will start college at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater next spring after completing USMC recruit training and has plans to study engineering.

Courtney Amber Halverson



Courtney Amber Halverson is a 2017 graduate of Westlake High School, Austin, Texas. She is the daughter of Jenni and Mark Halverson, She will graduate May 25 with high honors. Courtney began her high school career at American School in Japan where she played varsity basketball and softball and junior varsity volleyball. She was inducted into the National Honor Society as a sophomore. She transferred to Westlake High School at the beginning of her junior year and maintained a rigorous academic schedule. She is proud of her Keel family Chickasaw heritage. She plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the Fall 2017 and will pursue a degree in Cognitive Science.

Sarah Corn



Sarah Corn is a 2017 graduate of Westmoore High School, Oklahoma City. She is the daughter of Greg and Dee Dee Corn. She is the granddaughter of Richard Douglas Corn and Joyce Corn and the great-granddaughter of Mary Elizabeth (Harkins) Childs and Richard Corn. Se is the great-great-granddaughter of Robert Douglas Harkins and Kate (Reynolds) Harkins Sarah is active in her church, dances competitively and is a member of the Westmoore Pom Squad, National Honor Society and senior council at her school. She has maintained a cumulative 4.24 grade point average (GPA) throughout her high school career and was named UDA Pom All American, OSDTDA Academic All State and OSDTDA All State Dance Team. She plans to attend the University of Oklahoma to major in journalism with a minor in Native American Studies.

Reece Heck



Reece Heck is a 2017 graduate of Coalgate High School, Coalgate, Okla. He is the son of Brenda Britt and Randy Heck, the grandson of the late R.L. "Dutch" Heck and Mary Lee Heck. Reece was active in baseball, basketball and football for four years. He is a member of the National Honor Society and attends the Family Life Church of Atoka, Okla. He is a member of the Drama Club and the Chickasaw Youth Leadership Program. His plans are to attend East Central University, Ada, Okla., to major in mass communications.

Rachel Marie Mackey

Rachel Mackey is a 2017 graduate of Valley Christian High School, Chandler, Ariz. She is the daughter of Jeff and Deneen Mackey. She is the granddaughter of Dwight and Sherri Barnes and Jerry and Janice Mackey. Rachel has been involved in drama productions, drama team and drama club holding positions as crew chief, stage manager, and vice president. She is a member of Valley Rhythmics, an instrumental performing group that uses non-traditional instruments. She played the bass drum in pep band. Rachel is a life member of the Thespian Honor Society was a member of the National Honor Society, was on the honor roll every semester and is a Chickasaw Honor Club member. She enjoys volunteering at Feed My Starving Children and Actor's Youth Theatre. Rachel plans to major in Civil Engineering with a minor in theatre at Northern Arizona University.



Hunter Lynnae White



Hunter Lynnae White is a 2017 graduate of Stillwater High School, Stillwater, Okla. She is the daughter of Buddy and Cristy White. She is the granddaughter of Debbie and Dan Naylor, Curtie Young, Susan Weller and Oscar Arellano, all of Binger, Okla. Hunter carries a 4.0 grade point average. She is involved in many academic and athletic groups in her community. She is a member of the Beta Club, honor society, Native American Student Association, and Oklahoma Indian Honor Society. She played softball at Stillwater High School all four years with numerous honors including being a four-time Under Armour All-American. She currently serves as a manager for the Stillwater High

School baseball team. Hunter plans to attend Seminole State College, Seminole, Okla., with a full athletic scholarship to play softball and to pursue her education in physical education/fitness and nutrition.

Sarah Katherine McGehee



Sarah Katherine McGehee is a 2017 graduate of Turner High School, Burneyville, Okla. She is the daughter of Preston H. and Kim McGehee, of Marietta, Okla. She is the granddaughter of Preston L. McGehee and the late Sharron McGehee and John and Cindy Musgrove. Sarah has attended the Turner School System for 14 years and has been very active in all school activities. In high school she was a member of the Beta Club, Future Farmers of American, FCCLA, served as class officer, cheerleading captain, and manager of the high school softball teams. Sarah was awarded the Turner High School Student of the Month in 2015, 2016 and 2017. She has been on the Superintendents Honor Roll for four years and has been a member of the Chickasaw Honor Club. She served as captain of the varsity cheerleading squad for the past three years and

was the THS Homecoming Queen for 2016-17. Her plans are to attend Murray State College, Tishomingo, Okla., to pursue a registered nursing degree.

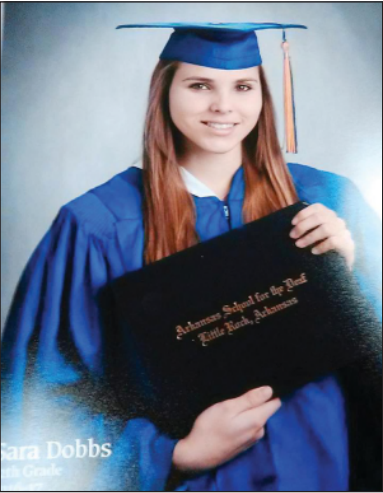
Jordan Clary



Jordan Clary is a 2017 graduate of Sulphur High School, Sulphur, Okla. He is the son of Michael Clary and Barbara Cain. He is the grandson of David and Evelyn Clary and the late Loyd and Mary Cain. Jordan was active in track and field. He enjoys spending time with family and going fishing with friends. His plans are to go straight into working so that he can make a living and start saving money.

Sara Dobbs

Sara Dobbs is a 2017 graduate of Arkansas School for the Deaf, Little Rock. She is the daughter of Glennye Perry and Jason Dobbs. She is the granddaughter of Miguel and Virginia Aguilar-Corona, Phillip Dobbs, and Billy Joe Perry. She participated in volleyball, track, and basketball. Her basketball team won the GPSD tournament this year. She was selected to play in Washington, D.C. for the National Deaf Team. Her plans are to attend East Central University, Ada, Okla. *Congratulations! We are very proud of you. Keep up the good work.*



Sheicona Lee Gilmore

Sheicona Lee Gilmore is a 2017 graduate of Byng High School, Ada, Okla. He is the son of Thad and Tina Cathey, Nick Gilmore and D'Arcy Bond. He is the grandson of Freddy and Ronda Drawbaugh, Stephanie Bointy, the late Victor Gilmore and Randy and LaDonna Cathey. He is the great-grandson of Warner and Patricia Bointy, of Anadarko, Okla., the late Beverly Cravatt-Tallbird, the late Gary Blair, Fred Drawbaugh, of Sulphur, Okla., the late Rosa Marie Nash, Rosie Gilmore, of Calera, Okla., and the late Even Gilmore. Sheicona is a descendent of full-blood Chickasaws his great-great-grandparents, Darias and Erie Cravatt. Sheicona was active in cross country and track. His plans are to become a Lighthouse officer. *I can't believe that very soon I will be standing there watching you walk across that stage to be handed your high school diploma. You've worked so hard to get to this point and I am so proud of you! Please know that I am so happy for you and I'm so excited to see what endeavors are next for you. Your dream of becoming a Lighthouse Officer will be made possible because of your honesty, integrity, and the respect you give and receive. Thank you for being the best big brother. I love you Sheicona very much and thank you for the best 18 years of my life. Always remember...I am your biggest fan!* *With love, Mom*



Neely Alexis Wood



Neely Alexis Wood is a 2017 graduate of Tishomingo High School, Tishomingo, Okla. She is the daughter of Patricia Wood and Scott Wood. She is the granddaughter of Phyllis Seymore and the late Joe Plumley and Larry and Eugenia Wood. Neely is active in the student council and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She participates in golf, softball and basketball. She took part in the Chickasaw Nation Summer Youth program five years and is active in the Chickasaw Youth Club. She participates in the school's food pantry program and is involved in the school's annual Oklahoma Blood Drive. She has been on the A and B honor roll three years and received the top student award in U.S. History her junior year. Neely attends Wapanucka First Baptist Church. She plans to get an associate degree in business at Murray State College, Tishomingo, then attend East Central University, Ada, and eventually work for the Chickasaw Nation to assist fellow Chickasaws and preserve her heritage.

Avery Jack



Avery Jack is a 2017 graduate of Martin High School, Arlington, Texas. She is the daughter of Jim and Kim Jack. Avery is graduating with honors from Martin High School in Arlington, Texas. She has excelled academically, as a varsity cheerleader and as a leader at her church. Her plans are to attend Dallas Baptist University in the fall where she will study psychology to become a counselor. Avery's ultimate goal is to use her counseling skills to help children from hard places.

Taylor Melissa Christine Henry



Taylor Melissa Christine Henry is a 2017 graduate of Ardmore High School, Ardmore, Okla. She is the daughter of Darla J. Christie and the late Hanson L. Henry. She is the granddaughter of Faye Taylor and the late LeRoy and Lorine Christie.

Taylor was active in the Native American Club, Dream Catchers for nine years. She was a member of the Ardmore Stomp Group, a Johnson O'Malley (JOM) student representative her junior and senior years, participated in Toksali SMART for three years, elected Dream Catcher Princess, in 2016-2017; a student in Chikasha Pehlichik Ikb, for one year and elected Dream Catcher Jr. Princess.

She plans to attend Murray State College through the University Center of Southern Oklahoma, then Southeastern Oklahoma State University to study Native American Leadership.

Kannen Ireneo Caldwell

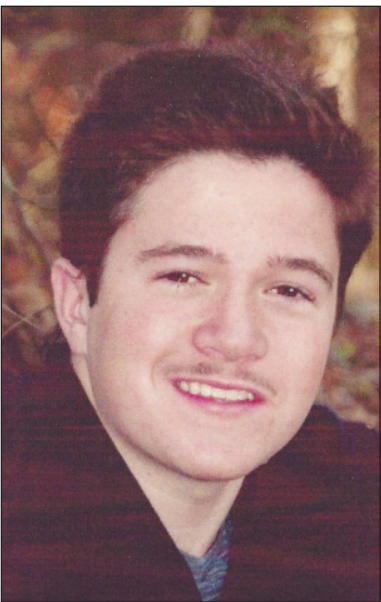


Kannen Ireneo Caldwell is a 2017 graduate of Castro Valley High School, Castro Valley, Calif. He is the son of Deana and Ireneo Caldwell II and stepson of Julie Caldwell. He is the grandson of Marty and Cheryl Marvar and Bertha and Ireneo Caldwell and step-grandson of Janet Caldwell. Kannen is the great-great-grandson of Lorana Brown a Chickasaw original enrollee and the direct descendant of William Cravett who walked the trail of tears. He has been a great son and a great brother to his sisters Kailey, Michaela and Alyssa.

Kannen is a two year varsity letterman in baseball and was the starting quarterback his freshman year at Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland, Calif. He enjoys all sports, music and photography. Kannen is graduating this June with honors and has been accepted to the engineering program of San Diego State and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He is also considering Cuesta Junior College where he could continue playing baseball.

We have great love for Kannen and wish him well on this next chapter of his life.

Joshua Kretzschmar



Joshua Kretzschmar is a 2017 graduate of Byng High School, Ada, Okla. He is the son of Lorin and Marian Kretzschmar. He is the grandson of Ronnie Boyd and Bobbie Emerson and the great-grandson of Leta Boyd and Mary Jo Lambert.

Joshua enjoys video production, tennis, speech and academic bowl. He was a member of the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society and was chosen Student of the Month.

He is gifted and talented and plans to spread the good news from God full time, and move to Jehovah's Witnesses headquarters in New York to assist in the video production department there. He is super glad to get out of high school and into the real world.

Jackson Milner

Jackson Milner is a 2017 graduate of Purcell High School, Purcell, Okla. He is the son of Tracy Folsom Milner and Clay Milner. He is the grandson of Gary and Marsha Barger.

Jackson was a member of the varsity basketball team for three years and has been on the Superintendent's Honor Roll and in the Chickasaw Honor Club for four years. He has been a member of the National Honor Society for two years, a member of the superintendent's advisory committee for one year and served as vice president of the Technology Student Association for three years. He received top student awards in economics, Oklahoma History, English 1, physical science, geometry, algebra 2, English 2, government, MS Office, biology, desktop publishing, chemistry 1, trigonometry/pre-calculus, and English 3.

He plans to attend the University of Oklahoma to pursue a civil engineering degree.



Sean M. Tucker



Sean Tucker is a 2017 graduate of Southwest Covenant Christian School, Yukon, Okla. He is the son of Denise Lewis and Randall Tucker. He is the grandson of Ethel Bedell.

Sean acquired 12 college credit hours through Colorado Christian University's Dual Credit Program in History and Microeconomics. He maintained a 3.60 grade point average (GPA) through grades nine - 12. He was active in Spanish, 2 years, chess club his senior year, basketball, four years, two years of varsity, starting center his senior year; track, 10th grade running the 800 meters and one mile. He competed at regional. His community service volunteer work includes feeding the homeless in downtown Oklahoma City on a weekly basis.

He was accepted to the University of Oklahoma and plans to study business/finance.

He recently applied for his Chickasaw Nation voters registration with plans to learn more about the Chickasaw Nation.

Zach Holt



Zach Holt is a 2017 graduate of Eldorado High School, Las Vegas, Nev. He is the son of Paul and Janine Holt. He is the grandson of Pat and Dan Holt.

Zach's hobbies include fishing, weightlifting and hiking.

His plans are to pursue a degree in fire science.

Madeleine Monet Freeman

Madeleine Monet Freeman is a 2017 graduate of Dove Science Academy in Oklahoma City. She is the daughter of Guy and Melissa Freeman and the granddaughter of Cathy Wade and Nathan Nelson, Velda Underwood and Neal and Vi Freeman.

She has maintained A's and B's throughout her school years and has been involved in various clubs and activities both inside school and throughout the community. She is a founding member of Dove's Ethics Team. She has been a member of engineering, VIP, Robotics and the sign language club. She has competed in the Science Olympiad and regional science and engineering fair where she has placed in various categories. Outside of school, she has been in the OKCPS NASS Dance Troupe and challenge bowl team. She has been a mentor and member of OKCIC's Rock Climbing Club and a teacher at OCTA Choctaw Language Class. She has been a member of the University of Oklahoma Future Health Scientists Partnership Program since 2009, and was chosen as an Outstanding Student and won the Outstanding Science Presentation in 2014. She has entered artwork in Red Earth, SEASAM, Native American Heritage Festival, and OKCPS NASS Student Art Show, and has won various awards and Best in Show honors. She entered The Greater Tulsa Art Festival Student Art Show in 2017 and won Best in Show, 1st Place, and People's Choice Award for her paper mache sculpture of a traditional Choctaw dress. She has served as the 2011-2012 Miss OK Choctaw Tribal Alliance, 2013-2014 Miss OKCPS JOM and 2016 Miss Indian Oklahoma City. She is a member of Angie Smith United Indian Methodist Church.

Madeleine has been accepted to Yale, where she will pursue a bachelor's degree in history. After undergraduate school, she plans to apply to medical school to become a surgeon.



Annah Baykal



Annah Baykal is a 2017 graduate of College of Engineering at the University of Kentucky. She is the daughter of Turk and Jana Baykal and granddaughter of Laveta Dryden,

Ms. Baykal will graduate summa cum laude with a bachelor of science in chemical engineering May 9, 2017. She will also graduate with honors from the Lewis Honor College with a certificate in biopharmaceutical chemical engineering.

Her future plans involve attending medical school at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine beginning in the Fall of 2017.

She would like to thank the Chickasaw Nation for their support in her academic achievements so far, as well as for their continued support in her future endeavors."

Todd M. Jensen



Todd M. Jensen, of Orem, Utah, is a 2017 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, School of Social Work. He is the son of Cherry Jensen and Quinn Jensen

He is the grandson of Louis L. Parker, Sr. and the late Natalie Pearson.

Mr. Jensen will be graduating with a doctoral degree (Ph.D.) in social work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) in May, 2017. Building on his background in family studies, clinical social work, research methods, and statistics, he has been engaged in research focused broadly on family resilience and youth development. One arm of his research seeks to identify factors that promote youth well-being in the context of family instability, or when parental figures exit and enter the household. Another arm of this research explores and generates evidence-informed strategies for preventing family violence among active-duty military members.

As a doctoral student, Mr. Jensen was awarded a Chancellor's Fellowship from the UNC Graduate School's Royster Society of Fellows, and a predoctoral fellowship from the Carolina Consortium on Human Development at the Center for Developmental Science through the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Todd has engaged in service to the larger university and community by co-leading Stigma Free Carolina, an interdisciplinary and student-led mental health stigma reduction initiative, and through work as a graduate mentor for first-generation undergraduate students who are considering the pursuit of graduate education.

Following graduation, Mr. Jensen will continue his research as a postdoctoral research associate at UNC, and soon pursue a long-term career in research, likely as a professor at a research-focused university.

He wishes to express deep gratitude to the Chickasaw Nation for its unfailing support as he's pursued and completed various stages of higher education. He also feels indebted to his Chickasaw ancestors, whose experiences and stories have fueled his passion for social justice and desire to help build a just and equitable society that works for all individuals and families.

Intertribal Council resolutions address health care, adoption policy

TULSA, Okla. – Health care policy was a high priority during the recent quarterly meeting of the Intertribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes in Tulsa.

Stating that the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) is “both saving lives and saving the federal healthcare system money,” the council called for renewal of the program first established in 1997. According to the resolution, the SDPI has led to a marked decrease in diabetes rates over the past 20 years.

Current SDPI authorization is set to expire September 30 of this year. Expiration could result in the loss of what the resolution described as “the nation’s most strategic and effective federal initiative to combat diabetes.”

The resolution calls for the program to be renewed for at least five years at a funding level of \$200 million per year.

Another resolution calls for waiver of co-payments for Native American veterans receiving treatment at Veterans Administration health care facilities.

According to the resolution, Congress has passed numerous laws to provide health care for Native Americans based on treaties and agreements ceding vast amounts of land to the U.S.

These include the Indian Health Service and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. Other laws provide “access to general health programs, such as Medicaid, while creating Indian-specific protection within these programs that reflect this unique political relationship.”

The resolution went on to state that the Veterans Administration is a federal government program and thereby shares in the federal responsibility to provide health care to Native American veterans even if they are eligible for services at Indian health care facilities.

A separate resolution addressed adoption policy, by seeking to place Native American governments on an equal footing with states. This resolution supports passage of the Tribal Adoption Parity Act. Under present law, only states may designate “special needs” children to receive full adoption tax credits. This excludes tribal governments and adoptions within tribal judicial settings. The Tribal Adoption Parity Act would amend to the Internal Revenue Code to grant tribal governments the authority to designate children “special needs” status. Such action would help ease the financial hardship on adoptive families under au-

thority of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Education was also on the agenda as the council encouraged young Native American girls to study and enter into science, technology, engineering and math as fields of study and future careers. The council cited the Million Women Mentors Native American Council and the American Indian Science and Engineer Society’s “Empowering Native Girls in STEM” as providing

support in elementary through high schools. STEM education is critical to natural resource development, health care strategies, and a multitude of other opportunities for young Natives. By supporting the two groups, the council hopes to increase opportunities for Native American students involved in STEM programs in Oklahoma and across the nation.

The council also passed a resolution supporting the appoint-

ment of Lance Robertson as Assistant Secretary of the Agency on Aging/Administration for Community Living. Robertson currently is director of Aging Services, a division of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. The council noted Mr. Robertson had supported endeavors of tribal aging services to tribal elders of Oklahoma for more than 20 years.

to sign up to receive the e-newsletter visit ChickasawRancher.com.

Follow The Chickasaw Rancher on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for updates and information.

THE CHICKASAW NATION TRIBAL ELECTION 2017 PRIMARY ELECTION SCHEDULE

- June 5-7:
Candidate filing period (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Election Secretary’s office)
- June 9:
Challenge to Candidacy ends at 5 p.m.
- June 12:
Drawing for position on the ballot (1:30 p.m. at the Election Secretary’s office)
Candidates may pick up print-outs & USB flash drive.
- June 12:
Last day to submit photo & biography to “Chickasaw Times” (by 4:00 pm)
Press release for candidates (news/media)
- June 22:
Ballots mailed to voters who reside out of the contiguous 48 states
- July 5:
Voter registration closes.
- July 6:
After 12 p.m. candidates may pick up updated printouts & USB flash drive.
- July 6:
Ballots mailed to ALL qualified voters.
- July 20:
Last day to appoint a watcher.
- July 25:
2017 Primary Election (last day to return ballots; no later than 10:30 a.m.)
Ballot tabulation begins @ 11 a.m.
Unofficial results posted immediately
Press Release made to public.
- July 25:
Voter registration re-opens, if no run-off election.
- July 28:
Recount period ends.
- October 2:
(October 1 falls on a Sunday.)
Oath of Office Ceremony (11:00 a.m.)
- THE CHICKASAW NATION
2017 RUN-OFF ELECTION SCHEDULE (IF NEEDED)
- July 31:
Candidates may pick up print-outs & USB flash drive (after 12:00 p.m.)
- August 10:
Ballots mailed to ALL qualified voters.
- August 24:
Last day to appoint a watcher for the run-off election.
- August 29:
2017 Run-Off Election (last day to return ballots; no later than 10:30 a.m.)
Ballot tabulation begins @ 11 a.m.
Unofficial results posted immediately
Press Release made to public.
Voter registration re-opens
- September 1:
Recount period ends.
- October 2:
(October 1 falls on a Sunday.)
Oath of Office ceremony (11:00 a.m.)

CASTING CALL

CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 1

Armed with a Colt revolver and dreams of a better life, he had the grit, determination and courage needed to tame what seemed an infinite wilderness, while always maintaining respect for the Native people who lived there.

Production on “The Chickasaw Rancher” is planned to begin in Oklahoma May 2017 and nationwide casting calls were conducted in March and April.

For updates about opportunities to participate in the film, or

ELECTION

CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 1

registered voter of the Chickasaw Nation at least 30 years of age. Judges must be residents of the Chickasaw Nation during their three-year term of office. Filing fees are \$500.

Candidates must bring verification of physical and mailing address, such as a utility bill or homestead exemption, filing fee and upon filing must complete a financial disclosure statement.

Statements are also due at the end of every month during the candidate’s active campaign period. Candidates will receive an electoral packet containing election rules and regulations, the Chickasaw Constitution, financial disclosure forms, biography form for the Chickasaw Times, and watcher form. Candidates must not have been convicted of a felony. Background checks are

conducted on all candidates.

Primary election is July 25 and run-off election is August 29, if applicable.

For further assistance, please contact Rita Loder, election secretary toll free at 1-888-661-0137.

‘The Importance of Being Earnest’ May 11-13

Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities in association with Ada Shakespeare Company presents “The Importance of Being Earnest” by Oscar Wilde May 11-13 at 7 p.m. at the Arts & Humanities Black Box Theatre in Ada.

This story tells the tale of two bachelor friends, Algernon Moncrieff and John (Jack) Worthing, as they take on double lives to gain the attention of the desirable Gwendolyn Fairfax and Cecily Cardew.

For more information, or to buy tickets, contact Arts & Humanities at (580) 272-5520.

Students can now submit application for higher education grants and scholarships

Chickasaw students wishing to receive higher education grants and scholarships for the 2017 summer term can apply beginning May 1.

Students participating in an undergraduate, graduate or doctoral program from an accredited college are eligible to receive assistance through a number of grants and scholarship programs provided through the Chickasaw Nation.

Grants and scholarships assist

part-time and full-time students with tuition, books and fees.

Applicants must complete a Programs, Grants and Scholarship Application, provide an official high school or college transcript and a schedule of classes.

Applications are available at www.chickasaw.net/highered.

Application deadline is June 15.

For more information, contact education services at (580) 421-7711.

OKLAHOMA
BUSINESS WEEK

at East Central University

AN AWARD-WINNING, TOTAL IMMERSION
EXPERIENCE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO
ARE MOTIVATED LEADERS WITH CREATIVE IDEAS.

Learn about business operations, from product development to marketing, led by business leaders in the community.

Executives and community leaders teach students professional business concepts in inspirational workshops.

Win scholarships, laptop computers and test-drive college life!

SUNDAY JUNE 4

THROUGH

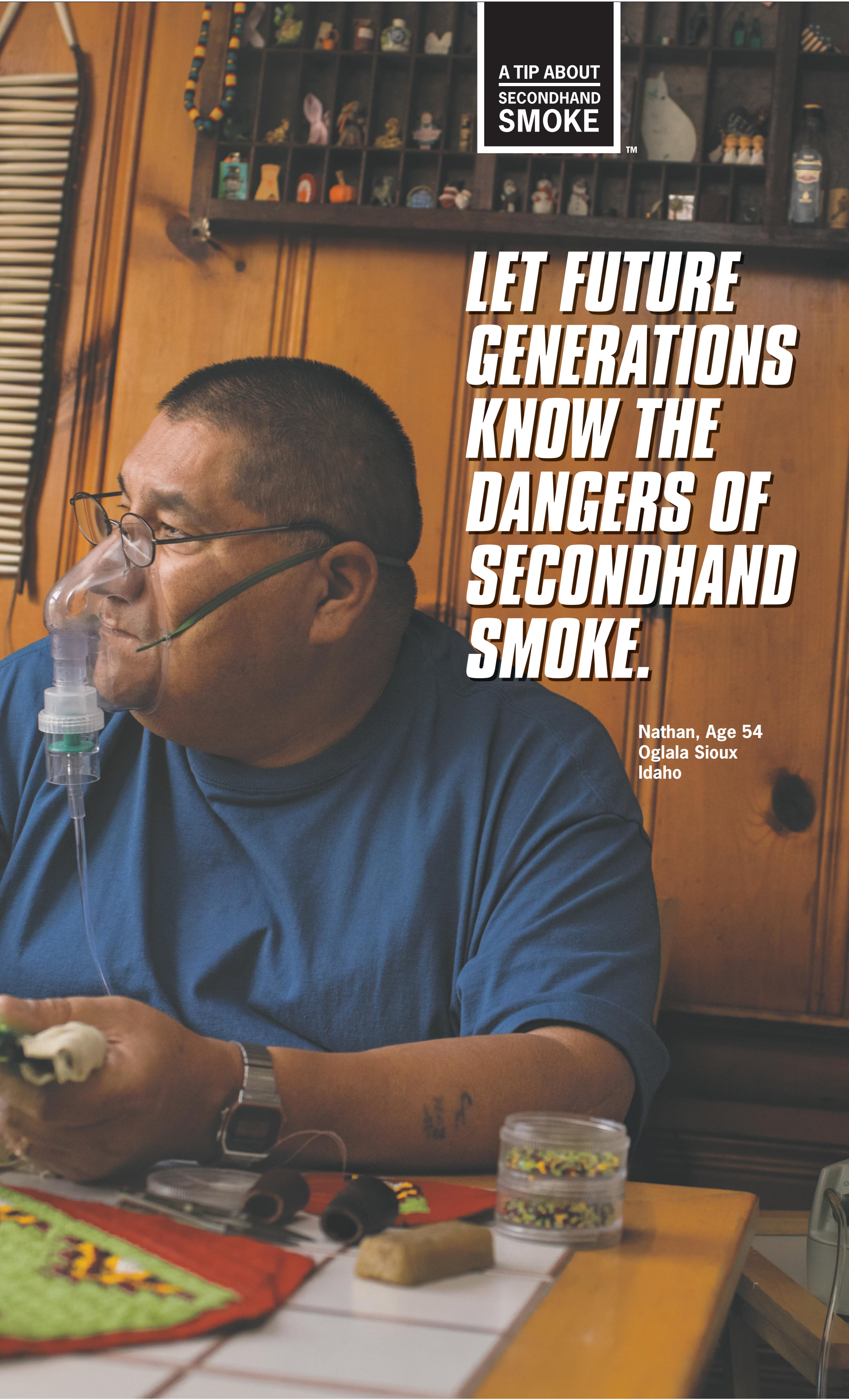
THURSDAY JUNE 8

To apply or learn more about scholarships, contact Angela Wrublewski at (580) 421-7711 or Angela.Wrublewski@Chickasaw.net.

www.OKBUSWEEK.com

OKLAHOMA
BUSINESS WEEK

the
Chickasaw
Nation



A TIP ABOUT
SECONDHAND
SMOKE

**LET FUTURE
GENERATIONS
KNOW THE
DANGERS OF
SECONDHAND
SMOKE.**

Nathan, Age 54
Oglala Sioux
Idaho

Secondhand smoke at work triggered Nathan’s severe asthma attacks and caused infections and lung damage. If you or someone you know wants free help to quit smoking, call **1-800-QUIT-NOW**.
#CDCTips



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
[CDC.gov/tips](https://www.cdc.gov/tips)

HOF RECIPIENTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from helping establish the first Chickasaw Senior Citizens program to serving six consecutive terms on the Chickasaw Nation Legislature.

Mrs. Green began her Chickasaw Nation service 40 years ago assisting Chickasaw citizens seeking employment through the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA).

In 1980, Mrs. Green was instrumental in launching the first Chickasaw Senior Citizens' Nutrition Program. Her work with elders was recognized in 1986 when she was awarded the Outstanding Employee in the State of Aging Network, and again in 1993 when she was awarded Professional of the Year in the Field of Aging.

She was honored with the Indian Health Service Director's Award in 1994. A year later, she received the Betsy D. Smith Award for her work as the Chickasaw Nation Senior Citizen Program Coordinator.

After serving more than 21 years as a Chickasaw Nation employee, Mrs. Green was elected to the Chickasaw Nation Legislature in 1998. She ultimately served six consecutive terms.

Mrs. Green served as the chairperson of the Chickasaw Legislature Health Care Committee during the planning, financing and construction of the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center.

After dedicating more than 39 years of service to the Chickasaw Nation and the Chickasaw people, Mrs. Green retired in 2016.

She was born April 18, 1934 to John Thomas and Julia Elizabeth Kennedy-Thomas, in the Fitzhugh, Okla., area on her mother's Indian allotment.

Mrs. Green graduated from Fitzhugh High School, and attended East Central University, Ada, Okla.

She and her husband, the late J.L. Green, reared two children, the late Jess Green and Melissa Green-Wilkerson. Mrs. Green has three grandchildren.

M. Franklin Keel

During his distinguished career, M. Franklin Keel has honorably represented Native American people with integrity and distinction at the highest levels of government.

In 1971, Mr. Keel became the first American Indian commissioned a Foreign Service Officer by the U.S. Diplomatic Corps. He performed with distinction while representing U.S. interests overseas.

Mr. Keel's international influence is unparalleled. He personally carried greetings from the Chickasaw Nation to foreign political leaders, including Prime Minister (now President) Erdogan

and Foreign Minister Gül of Turkey, Deputy Minister Volgin of Russia, Lord Alderdice of Great Britain and Deputy Minister Nazimov of Azerbaijan, among others. He also acted as the sole U.S. representative at international meetings concerning indigenous peoples in Russia, Turkey, Canada and Mexico.

Sparked by a desire to serve Native America, Mr. Keel graduated from Oklahoma City University Law School in 1978 and assisted Native American people through his work with Legal Aid in Lawton.

In 1997, Mr. Keel was appointed Director of the Eastern Region, Bureau of Indian Affairs. He served the 28 tribes of the largest and most diverse region until his retirement in 2014.

In 37 years with the BIA, Mr. Keel earned the highest ratings for superior performance in his roles promoting Native American interests. He was appointed to the Federal Senior Executive Service, the highest rank of the career U.S. Civil Service.

He coauthored The Ethics of Anthropology and Amerindian Research - Reporting on Environmental Degradation and Warfare with professor David Dye of the University of Memphis.

M. Franklin Keel was born Oct. 20, 1946, in Lawton, Okla., to Douglas Keel, a Chickasaw career U.S. Army sergeant and Christine Jefferson.

Kevin Washburn

Kevin Washburn's contributions as a legal scholar in Indian Law have positively impacted the Chickasaw Nation, and indigenous peoples across the country.

His prolific writings and congressional testimony have influenced public policy in both criminal law and gaming in Indian Country.

Mr. Washburn earned a bachelor's degree in economics at the University of Oklahoma in 1989. In 1993, he earned his juris doctorate from Yale Law School.

In 1993-94, he served as law clerk for Judge William C. Canby Jr.

Mr. Washburn was a trial attorney in the Indian Resources Section of the U.S. Department of Justice from 1994 to 1997.

He served as Assistant United States Attorney in Albuquerque, N.M., from 1997 to 2000, and as General Counsel for the National Indian Gaming Commission from 2000 to 2002.

He was Associate Professor of Law at the University of Minnesota Law School from 2002 to 2008.

Mr. Washburn served as the Rosenstiel Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law from 2008 to 2009 and Dean

of the University of New Mexico School of Law from June 2009 - October 2012.

In 2012, Mr. Washburn was nominated by President Barack Obama to be Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior. He was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

He served in that position until Jan. 1, 2016, when he returned to the University of New Mexico as a faculty member.

Mr. Washburn was born Aug. 9, 1967, to Chickasaw citizen Shirley Stark.

He is married to Elizabeth "Libby" Rodke Washburn, who currently serves as the chief compliance officer at the University of New Mexico. The couple has three sons, Cole, Ford and Burke.

Lt. Col. Raymond Harvey

The late Raymond Harvey, the only Chickasaw citizen to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor, spent a life of selfless and heroic service to the United States.

In July 1950, as the captain of the U.S. Army 17th Infantry Regiment, 7th Division, Capt. Harvey was part of the amphibious landing at Inchon, Korea. After his company was pinned down by the enemy, Capt. Harvey moved forward to wipe out multiple enemy machine gun crews, displaying supreme bravery. During this time, he was wounded by a bullet close to his chest, but never stopped. He sighted another enemy "pill box" and took out the crew with a single grenade. He refused medical attention until he was certain his company had complete control of the hill.

In 1951, Capt. Harvey was awarded the country's highest military award, the Congressional Medal of Honor. President Harry S Truman presented the award. Capt. Harvey was one of 146 recipients of the Medal of Honor, and one of three American Indians to receive the award, during the Korean War.

Capt. Harvey served as technical adviser for the 20th Century Fox feature film Fixed Bayonets, which depicted his exploits in Korea. He also served as technical adviser for two more war films, Cease Fire in 1953 and Verboten in 1959.

He retired from the military in 1962 as a lieutenant colonel. He later served as Director of Indian Affairs for the Arizona State Emergency Services before retiring in 1981.

Lt. Col. Raymond Harvey died in 1996 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. In 2010, he was posthumously inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame.

Holmes Tuttle

Holmes Tuttle became an enig-

matic figure in Oklahoma history as a successful businessman and political figure.

Mr. Tuttle never held public office, but had great influence with several notable political figures including Presidents Ronald Reagan, Gerald R. Ford and Richard M. Nixon.

Mr. Tuttle opened his first car dealership, Holmes Tuttle, Inc., in 1945. The business evolved into 14 dealerships in California and Arizona, helping him become one of the most successful auto dealers and businessmen in the nation.

In 1952, he joined the presidential campaign of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

He also worked on the presidential campaigns of Barry Goldwater, Richard M. Nixon, Gerald R. Ford, Ronald Reagan.

A close friend and a longtime adviser to President Reagan, Mr. Tuttle is credited with convincing Mr. Reagan to give the speech that launched his political career.

Mr. Tuttle later persuaded Mr. Reagan to run for California Governor in 1966. A member of Mr. Reagan's so-called "kitchen cabinet," Mr. Tuttle was an influential voice on important policy issues well into President Reagan's second term.

Mr. Tuttle, who never attended college, received an honorary doctorate from Pepperdine University.

In 1955, he helped found Harvey Mudd College, in Claremont, California.

Mr. Tuttle served as director of Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles.

He was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1975.

Mr. Tuttle died in 1989 at Montecito, Calif., at the age of 83. He left a legacy in both business and family. His son, Robert Tuttle, served as ambassador to England under President Bush.

Mr. Tuttle, an entrepreneur and a businessman, was a fine example of how hard work and dedication can lead to success in any field. He is a role model for all Chickasaws.

About the Chickasaw Hall of Fame and Honor Garden

In 1987 the Chickasaw Nation began honoring Chickasaws who made significant contributions to Chickasaw people or the Native American community by induction into the Chickasaw Hall of Fame.

Since then, 82 Chickasaw men and women have been nominated and inducted into this prestigious circle of honor.

Plaques of Hall of Fame inductees adorn the Chickasaw Nation Honor Garden.

Located on the Chickasaw Cultural Center campus in Sulphur, Oklahoma, the Chickasaw Nation Honor Garden is crafted from natural elements including rock, granite and copper. The architecture is an original design inspired by the four directions and incorporating spiral symbols indicative of traditional Chickasaw culture. At the center of the garden is a granite fountain adorned with copper feathers and natural stone.

Reservations due for Chickasaw Hall of Fame by May 25

The 2017 Chickasaw Hall of Fame ceremony will take place Thursday, June 1, at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Norman, Okla.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Chickasaw Hall of Fame.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the banquet will begin at 6 p.m.

There is no charge to attend, but reservations are required for the event, which is expected to accommodate approximately 700 guests.

Reservations will be accepted until May 25.

To make reservations contact the Chickasaw Nation Office of Special Events at 580-332-1165 or email Randi.payne@chickasaw.net

Induction to the Chickasaw Hall of Fame is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a Chickasaw citizen by the Chickasaw Nation. For more information about the Chickasaw Hall of Fame, visit www.chickasaw.net/hof.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame to be streamed live on the worldwide web

The June 1 Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame induction ceremonies, led by Governor Bill Anoatubby, will be available live online.

A live video stream of the ceremony will be available on the Chickasaw Nation website. The live webcast will be accessible using any computer or mobile device online at www.chickasaw.net/hof.

Induction ceremonies begin at 6 p.m., Thursday, June 1, at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Norman, Okla.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame ceremony.

ARDMORE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tional and social development," he said.

The Ardmore facility is patterned after the award-winning Chickasaw Nation Child Development Center in Ada, which was featured in the 2010 spring issue of American School Board Journal's *Learning by Design* magazine. The magazine recognizes the nation's best education design and construction projects.

A variety of colors, textures and concepts designed around the theme of "Learnville USA" are intended to enhance the educational experience. Hallways depict a town, a zoo, the mountains and a farm, while rooms are modeled after a movie theater, general

store, gift shop, ice cream parlor, fire station, clothing store and other familiar buildings.

Included in the layout are three learning wings linked by a semi-circular hub, 17 classrooms, indoor and outdoor play areas, a gymnasium, a commercial style kitchen, library, media center, exercise areas and more.

To ensure safety, all doors incorporate shatterproof glass and controlled access. Three safe rooms are also included.

"We are excited to open this facility in Ardmore," Gov. Anoatubby said. "It provides a great opportunity for the development of children in this area and it will add more than 60 new jobs to the

local economy,"

The child development center's design not only allows opportunities to strengthen social skills and develop cognitive skills, it also helps children to connect with the Chickasaw heritage.

"Language is really important to child development, and since the Chickasaw language is so important to the preservation of Chickasaw culture, all of the street signs are written in Chickasaw," Gov. Anoatubby said. "A language specialist will also be on staff to teach Chickasaw, Spanish and sign language to the children."

The Ardmore Child Development Center is located at 1001



Interior hall of Chickasaw Nation Ardmore Child Development Center. The new learning center was dedicated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony March 30.

Cottonwood St., on the corner of Chickasaw Boulevard and Locust St. N.W. in Ardmore, just south of the Chickasaw Nation Wellness

Center.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

INKANA BRIDGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tween the two attractions.

Access points are located at Cat's Eye Road cul-de-sac near Veterans Lake in the park and near the Traditional Village at the Chickasaw Cultural Center.

"Ultimately, having the Chickasaw National Recreation Area and the Chickasaw Cultural Center tied together is beneficial," Gov. Anoatubby said. "It continues to enhance the tourism in this community and it furthers the goal of creating a popular destination for visitors in this county and in Sulphur."

The bridge was a joint effort

between the Chickasaw Nation and the National Park Service. The partnership is highlighted in the tie beams, which combine Chickasaw spirals with the National Park arrowhead.

The bridge also is designed to exist in harmony with the natural environment and features.

National Park Established

Prior to 1900, Chickasaws recognized the natural beauty of the area and the medicinal quality of the waters.

In an effort to protect the water and other resources, the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations, in 1902, ceded 640 acres to the U.S. government for the purpose of creating Sulphur Springs Reservation, with the understanding that all people would have free access to the springs for all time. Established as Platt National Park in 1906, additional acreage was added in 1976 and the area was renamed Chickasaw National Recreation Area to honor the Chickasaw people.

Chickasaw Visitor Center

The Chickasaw Visitor Center, 901 W. Ninth Street, Sulphur, is the result of another partnership between the two entities. Built in 2014, the Visitor Center is an information hub and gateway to the Chickasaw National Recreation Area. It is located at the intersection of State Highway 7 and U.S. Highway 177, adjacent to the Artesian Hotel and the Chickasaw National Recreation Area.

The facility serves a wide range of tourists, highlights local attractions and communicates the

Chickasaw Nation's connection to the area.

The story of the establishment of Platt National Park/Chickasaw Nation Recreation Area and its connection to the Chickasaw Nation is shared at the Chickasaw Visitor Center.

The Chickasaw Nation and National Park Service also share office space in the facility.

For more information about the Chickasaw Cultural Center, visit chickasawculturalcenter.com.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

MARCH 2017 LEGISLATIVE MINUTES

CHICKASAW NATION TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION
Legislature Building
Ada, Oklahoma
March 17, 2017

AGENDA ITEM #1 C A L L
MEETING TO ORDER

Chairperson David Woerz called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2 R O L L
CALL

Members present: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods, David Woerz
Member absent: Tim Colbert

Staff present: Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary, Harold Stick, Sergeant-At-Arms, Robert Cheadle, Legislative Counsel

Guests present: Mary Jo Green, Tanis Hatton, Louise Ens, Michael L. Wingo, Dana Lance, Eugene Stevens

AGENDA ITEM #3 INVOCA
TION

Invocation was given by Mrs. Billy.

AGENDA ITEM #4 READING
OF MINUTES - February 17, 2017

A motion was made by Mrs. Alexander and seconded by Mrs. Case to approve the February 17, 2017 minutes.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods, David Woerz

11 yes votes

Member abstaining: Nancy Elliott

1 abstention

The motion to approve the minutes of February 17, 2017 carried.

AGENDA ITEM #5: UNFIN
ISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

AGENDA ITEM #6: REPORTS
OF COMMITTEES

(A) **HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT** by Committee Chair Scott Wood

General Resolution Number 34-014, Application for Grants under the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service

This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's application for federal funding to the U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service for the FY 2017 Tribal Heritage Grant Program. Funds from this grant will be utilized to survey and inventory significant Chickasaw archaeological resources on private land in the "Cook-Coonewah" tract containing some portion of the archaeological site of a Chickasaw settlement dating from the late 1600s to the early 1800s in Lee County, Mississippi, on the Coonewah Ridge in the Mississippi historic homeland. The results of this survey investigation will be used to enrich the lives of Chickasaw citizens through development of heritage tourism visits to the site as well as through written interpretive material and exhibits at various venues about the site and its context in Chickasaw culture history. The grant proposal is not to exceed \$40,000 for the one year period.

A motion was made by Mrs. Briggs and seconded by Ms. Case to approve GR34-014.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods, David Woerz

12 yes votes

The motion to approve GR34-014 carried unanimously.

Mr. Wood concluded his report.

(B) **LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT** by Com-

mittee Chair Linda Briggs

General Resolution Number 34-015, Authorization for Acquisition of Real Property in Pontotoc County Woodbrook Estates

This Resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's request to accept donated real property in Pontotoc County, Oklahoma, from the Chickasaw Housing Authority for a Chickasaw Nation wireless communications tower.

A motion was made by Mrs. Briggs and seconded by Mrs. McManus to approve GR34-015.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods, David Woerz

12 yes votes

The motion to approve GR34-015 carried unanimously.

Mrs. Briggs concluded her report.

AGENDA ITEM #7

NEW BUSINESS (Comments from Citizens)

There was no new business to discuss or comments from citizens.

Chairman Woerz announced the date for the Chickasaw Nation Industries annual stakeholders meeting and presented Ms. Eren Hatton with a 10-year service pin.

AGENDA ITEM #8

ADJOURNMENT

The Legislative Session adjourned at 9:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Toby Perkins, Secretary
Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislature

Prepared by:

Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary

Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislature

APRIL 2017 RESOLUTIONS

**General Resolution Number 34-016
Resolution Declaring a Vacancy on the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature and**

Stating the Preference of Method of Filling such Vacancy

Explanation: This resolution declares that a vacancy exists in Seat 4 of the Pontotoc District. It further states the unanimous decision of the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature that it would be best to fill the vacancy through the annual Chickasaw general election process. As a result, the seat shall remain open until the winning candidate is sworn in along with the other winning candidates. Authority for this decision is found in Title 16, Paragraph 16-101.9B1 of the Chickasaw Code:

"SECTION 16-101.9 MEMBERS & OFFICERS; GENERAL PROVISIONS.
B. Vacancies.

1. In the event a seat on the Legislature is determined to be vacant, the members of the Legislature shall, by resolution, request that the Governor call for a special election to be held within sixty (60) days of the Vacancy, in accordance with Article XV, Section 2, and Article VII, Section 6, of the Constitution, unless the members of the Legislature unanimously agree to delay until the next regularly scheduled election for that position, in accordance with Article XV, Section 2, and Article VII, Section 6, of the Constitution."

Presented By: Legislative Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, Steve Woods, David Woerz

**General Resolution Number 34-017
Assurances for the Indian Community Development Block Grant Program U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Southern Plains Office of Native American Programs**

Explanation: This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's application for an Indian Community Development Block Grant for a community facility funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, for the establishment of a Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Center, located in Tishomingo, Johnston County, Oklahoma.

Presented By: Human Resources Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, Steve Woods, David Woerz

**General Resolution Number 34-018
Application for federal Grant under the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services, Indian Highway Safety Program, Child Passenger Safety Seat Program Grant**

Explanation: This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's application for a Child Passenger Safety Seat Program Grant in the amount of \$15,000 by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs for the establishment of a high-quality child passenger safety seat program to be located within the Chickasaw Nation.

The Chickasaw Nation Department of Education is working to develop a high-quality evidence-based child passenger safety seat program. The grant proposal is to seek \$15,000 to design a high-quality program to protect Chickasaw children through a coordinated, high-quality, child passenger safety program, and to reduce the high number of traffic crashes and their resulting fatalities, injuries and property damage within Chickasaw communities. Indirect cost rate reimbursement does not apply to this grant application.

Presented by: Human Resources Committee

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, Steve Woods, David Woerz

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee of the Whole Meeting

April 17, 2017

Present: Beth Alexander, Lisa J. Billy, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, Steve Woods

Absent: Connie Barker, Linda Briggs, David Woerz

April 21, 2017

Present: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Lisa J. Billy, Katie Case,

Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Shana Hammond, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Steve Woods

Absent: Lisa J. Billy, Scott Wood

Finance Committee

April 17, 2017

Present: Tim Colbert, Toby Perkins, Shana Hammond, Nancy Elliott

Absent: Connie Barker, Linda Briggs, David Woerz

Human Resources Committee

April 10, 217

Present: Nancy Elliott, Toby Perkins, Steve Woods, Scott Wood

Absent: Katie Case

Legislative Committee

April 10, 2017

Present: Beth Alexander, Connie Barker, Linda Briggs, Nancy Elliott, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods

Absent: Lisa Billy, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Shana Hammond

Chickasaw Foundation Donor Spotlight



MORELAND-JENKS FAMILY

The Chickasaw Foundation appreciates the commitment of its donors.

Mary K. Moreland and Mr. Daniel T. Jenks are donors the Foundation appreciates for their generous support.

In 2004, they established the Mary K. Moreland & Daniel T. Jenks Scholarship to assist students in their educational journeys.

Ms. Moreland grew up near Braman, Okla., graduated from a rural high school in South Haven, Kan., and received an applied mathematics and economics degree from Harvard University. She pursued a career as an actuary, becoming fully accredited and consulting with Fortune 500 companies regarding pension plans.

Six years ago, she worked full-time for her client, Abbott Laboratories. She is now in charge of all global compensation, benefit and retirement programs.

Ms. Moreland and Mr. Jenks believe they are fortunate to have been raised by parents who placed a high value on education. Ms. Moreland's father was the first in his family to attend college. Her parents were farmers and teachers. It was never

a question that his children would also attend. When she announced she wanted to attend Harvard, her parents did not state they could not afford it. Instead they said, "That is great. I hope you can do it." Her parents were very encouraging and

never made any mention of the significant financial sacrifice it took for her to attend Harvard and other colleges.

Ms. Moreland's grandfather, Claude L. Moreland, was an original Dawes Commission Chickasaw enrollee.

Mr. Jenks' parents prioritized education above all else. His parents chose to live in an apartment building and made other significant lifestyle choices to ensure he and his sisters received quality education.

The couple has two daughters. One a sophomore in college, and the other a high school sophomore.

"We began donating to the Chickasaw Foundation scholarship program giving after my uncle, Dick Moreland, died and designated the Foundation for his memorial," Ms. Moreland said. "We are proud to have been able to give ever since. Our scholarship prioritizes education majors because we hope strong students will become educators to ensure that future generations have wonderful role models from whom they may learn."

Chickasaw Foundation Employee Charitable Contribution Plan Champion



LETA BURWELL

The Chickasaw Foundation recognizes Leta Burwell as an Employee Charitable Contribution Plan Champion. Ms. Burwell has been contributing to the Chickasaw Foundation since 2005.

"I feel it is important to give to the Chickasaw Foundation to make a difference in the lives of the Chickasaw people," she said. "I am grateful for the opportunity to donate and support the mission of the Chickasaw Foundation."

Ms. Burwell has been working for the Chickasaw Nation for 29 years. She serves as executive

officer of the Social Services division in the Department of Community Services. She has a daughter, Savannah, who is also employed with the Chickasaw Nation as a promotion specialist in the Department of Communications and Community Development.

Ms. Burwell attends Abba's House Worship Center and serves as the children's church director. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, shopping, reading and serving in various capacities at the church.

Foundation scholarship application online

Chickasaw citizens can now apply for 2017-2018 scholarships online at www.chickasawfoundation.org.

The Chickasaw Foundation provides education assistance for Chickasaw students who demonstrate excellence in academics, community service, dedication to Native America and a commitment to learning.

Scholarship funding begins each fall semester and is dependent upon the availability of funding. Scholarship awards can be made payable directly to the

recipient's designated college or university. The award requirements and amounts for each funding source may change during the course of a school year.

Native American students from any federally-recognized tribe are eligible to apply for the Chickasaw Foundation Health Professions Scholarship.

Application deadline is June 1, 2017.

Online submissions:

- Applicants may choose multiple scholarships. To continue through each section of the

application, please select submit.

- It is not possible to save your information and complete the application at another time.

- Please have all documents ready before beginning the application process.

If you are mailing an application, it must be delivered or postmarked by the deadline date to be considered for funding.

For more information, please contact the Chickasaw Foundation at (580) 421-9030 or ChickasawFoundation@chickasaw.net.

Rabies clinics scheduled in Chickasaw Nation

below:

- Friday, May 5, Ardmore Area Office
- Friday, May 5, Enos Community Center, Kingston
- Wednesday, May 10, Landscaping Facility, Ada
- Wednesday, May 10, Sulphur Area Office
- Friday, May 12, Madill Senior Center
- Tuesday, May 16, Duncan Area Office

- Wednesday, May 17, Wacker Park, Pauls Valley
 - Friday, May 19, Panola Senior Center, Colbert
 - Friday, May 26, Tishomingo Area Office
 - Friday, June 2, Purcell Area Office
 - Friday, June 16, Purcell Area Office
- For more information, contact the Ada Area Office at (580) 436-7256.

Alice Patricia Cozad

Alice Patricia Cozad, 71, of Stonewall, Okla., passed away April 6, 2017 at an Ada, Okla., hospital. Services were April 10 at Criswell Funeral Home Chapel. Burial followed in Highland Cemetery in Stonewall.

Mrs. Cozad was born Sept. 18, 1945 at Stonewall to Adolphus and Lula Johnson Brown. She graduated from Tupelo (OK) High School and received an associates degree from Murray State College, Tishomingo, Okla.

She married Jim Cozad and was retired from the U.S. Government Indian Health Services and later worked for the McAlester Ammunition Depot and was currently with the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center. She was of the Methodist faith.

She is survived by her husband, Jim, of Krebs, Okla.; two sons, Gary Cozad and wife, Jenny, of Pauls Valley, Okla., and Greg Cozad, of Ada; five brothers, Leon Brown and wife, Sandra, of Union Valley, Okla., Kennedy Brown and wife, Richenda, of Ada, Louie Brown, of Lula, Okla., George Brown, of Enid, Okla., and Alfred Brown, of Ada; a sister, Joyce Murray and husband, Vincent, of Lula; six grandchildren, Brandy Cozad-Marshall, Savannah Cozad, Katherine Cozad, Kinley Cozad, Kiley Cozad and Jonathan Cozad.

Bearers were Delwayne Johnson, Jay Johnson, Melvin Burris, Mike Self, Bryan Farrell and Travis Crawford. Honorary bearer is nephew, Kelly Brown.

Dixson N. Gorrell Sr.



Dixson N. Gorrell, Sr., 93, a resident of Sulphur, Okla., passed away October 15, 2016 at Ada, Okla. Graveside services were October 18 at Oaklawn Cemetery, with Larry Hawkins officiating. Military Service was presented by the Chickasaw Honor Guard. Burial was in Oaklawn Cemetery.

Mr. Gorrell was born August 15, 1923 in Davis, Okla., to Adolphus and Selina (Nail) Gorrell.

He lived in this area all of his life and attended school in Sulphur where he played football and was on the wrestling team at Sulphur High School. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during WWII. He had worked in drywall construction.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a son, Garland Gorrell; a daughter, Karen Inghram; and three brothers, General Gorrell, Cecil Gorrell, and Henry Gorrell.

He is survived by three daughters, Linda Richards, of Terlingua, Texas, Sug Thomsen, of Parhump, Nev., and Lisa Allen, of Phoenix; three sons, Roland Gorrell, of San Francisco, Dixson Gorrell Jr., of Davis, and Scott Gorrell, of Sulphur; a sister, Ruby Thomas, of Barborton, Ohio; 17 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Online condolences may be sent to www.dearmanfuneral-home.com

Geraldine (Jerre) Johnson



Geraldine (Jerre) Johnson, 79, Chickasaw elder, passed away April 1, 2017. Memorial services were April 14 at Wadley's Funeral

Chapel with Pastor Justin Blankenship, Phillip Billy and Lisa Johnson-Billy officiating.

Mrs. Johnson was born August 27, 1937 to Homer and Evelyn Ward Johnson at Tuscon, Arizona. She was raised in Purcell, Okla., and married James Idleman in 1954. Together, they had two children, Ronnie Idleman and Rhonda Tippet. She spent her life caring for others and retired from Griffin Memorial Hospital, Norman, Okla.

Early in life, she enjoyed going to rodeos and watching her kids compete. She had a lifelong affection for animals. So much so that while she was a resident at an assisted living center, she continued to feed stray animals and was eventually evicted for her caring gestures. She had a green thumb. Her yard was full of vibrant colors and her garden was large enough to share her harvest with neighbors.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Ronnie; a brother, Benjamin Johnson; and a sister, Rita Johnson.

She is survived by a daughter, Rhonda Tippet and husband, Phillip; a brother, Frank Johnson, Sr.; grandchildren, Joshua Idleman, Jordan Idleman, Chad Keiser; great-grandchildren, Cassidy Keiser, Hudson Keiser; and numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Roland Kisco (Mac) McDonald



Roland Kisco McDonald (Mac) Born to Isaac and Nora Belle (Black) McDonald in Tishomingo, Okla., on Dec. 15, 1920. Roland passed away at his home April 17, 2017.

Roland was raised by divorced parents during the Depression era. He used his keen hunting skills to help keep meat on the family table. He maintained his love for hunting wild game throughout his lifetime.

He met his future bride, Lillian Ritter, while they were both visiting family in Texas. Lillian's sister, Goldie had married the half-brother of Roland's stepfather Fred Johnson. Roland and Lil returned to their families in Oklahoma and were later married in El Reno, Okla., on May 27, 1939.

Roland had many skills and was a hard worker and did any job he could to support his family; from his first job as a delivery boy for a drug store in Oklahoma City making \$9 a week, Alcoa Aluminum in California, Dallas Coffin Company, Ford Motor Company and lastly in 1957 North Texas Municipal Water District where he worked until his retirement in 1985.

He was a member of Shiloh Baptist Church and the East Fork Masonic Lodge #650 where he served in many capacities and was proud of all the young men he helped with their memory work over the years.

He was preceded in death by his parents and step-parents, his wife of 76 years, three sisters Lillian Guinn and husband Delmar, Josephine O'Dell and husband Charles and Geraldine James. His is survived by brother Thurman McDonald and wife Myrna, of Tishomingo, Okla.; brother-in-law Herb James, of Ardmore, Okla.; sister-in-law Evelyn Hamilton of Tishomingo; his children, Larry McDonald and wife Ann, Richard McDonald and wife Gail, and Gwendolyn Kay Howell, all of Wylie, Texas; and daughter Cathy Callen and husband Ron, of Lawton, Okla.; 11 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren, 5 great-great grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews and a lifetime of friends.

A memorial service honoring both Lillian and Roland was April 29, First Baptist Church Chapel, Sachse, Texas. Interment was in the Wylie City Cemetery.

David Eli Perry



David Eli Perry, 78, soul passed to the light March 19, 2017. He was born at Corpus Christi, Texas, October 3, 1938 to Eli Perry, Jr. and Beulah Flutty. He was the grandson of the late Honorable Eli Perry, Sr., who served as the constable of Panola County, Oklahoma and higher political honors were accorded him as he was elected to the Chickasaw Legislature serving for 10 years.

Mr. Perry's family moved to Paris, Texas when he was at an early age. He lived in Paris until attending Texas A & M University and then graduating from North Texas State University in Denton, Texas where he was a member of Delta Sigma Phi.

After graduation, he relocated to Dallas. During his working career, he was transferred to Georgia, Mississippi and Louisiana. He retired in 1998 in research and development as a marketing manager with Kemper Insurance. While in Georgia, he was involved in activities with the Lassiter High School Band and Orchestra Parents Association and served as co-president of the organization, with his wife Donna, for two years.

After retirement, he returned to Mississippi where he became a founding member of Nativty Lutheran Church in Brandon and a member of the Reservoir Lions Club. He followed in his grandfather's footsteps of serving others by his active participation in the Lions Club. He was active as president for two years and treasurer for 10 years. For his dedicated service, Mr. Perry was recognized with the presentation of a Lions Club International Melvin Jones Fellowship and the Mid-South Lions Edwin Dalstrom Distinguished Service Award. He was also an ardent supporter and fundraiser for Leader Dogs for the Blind.

Most anytime, Mr. Perry could be found watching baseball, especially the Texas Rangers, and had followed the Dallas Cowboys since the early 1960s. He was a friend of the library and spent many hours reading informative historical novels, FBI/CIA series, and his favorite, the novels of Louis L'Amour.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Donna Neal; daughters Delecia Shuttleworth (Robert) and Dee Dee Walker (Stephen); granddaughter, Abigaile Perry Trawick; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Eualabelle Anderson; and a brother, Lucien Waldo Perry.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully suggests that a donation to Leader Dogs for the Blind be made in remembrance of David. www.Leaderdog.org

Saundra Kay (Ragland) Ryles



Saundra Kay (Ragland) Ryles, 71, passed away Nov. 26, 2016.

She married the love of her life, Oliver Cleve Ryles, Jr., Nov. 24, 1970. He served in the U. S. Army and fought in the Vietnam War from 1971-75, and was later stationed at Fort Hood, Texas and Fort Devens, Mass., with his family. After military life, the Ryles lived in Moore, Okla., and raised their two daughters, Laura and LaDonna. The Ryles became real

estate brokers and made many friends along the way.

Mrs. Ryles loved the cabin that she and her husband built in Davis, Okla., and boating on the Lake of the Arbuckles. She was a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation. The Ryles cabin was next to Chickasaw land near Sulphur, Okla., and many happy weekends and holidays were spent there. She would one day trace her Indian roots all the way back to the Trail of Tears that led her ancestors to Indian Territory.

Each year, Mrs. Ryles created recipes to enter into the Oklahoma State Fair and many other cooking contests. She had more blue ribbons than you could possibly imagine one person could win. She always made sure there was enough pie or other treats to send with her husband to work at Tinker Air Force Base. One of her dreams was to cook in the Pillsbury Bake-Off and she did it! She was one of 100 chosen in 1994 at the Hotel Del Coronado. There is a photo of her at the Del with host, Alex Trebek. The recipe: Cajun Red Beans and Rice Salad. She also made numerous wedding and other event cakes and sweets, and even catered a "mystery theatre dinner" once.

She was definitely a "foodie" before it was a "thing." Later, she knew every celebrity chef, every restaurant and every signature dish on the entire Food Network, not to mention every ingredient and every technique they use.

Mrs. Ryles loved going to the Amish Auction in Clarita, Okla. They usually went with good friends, Glo and John Morris. She acquired many beautiful handmade quilts, furniture pieces and antique cookware. For a time, she had a booth in an antique shop and loved scouring the Oklahoma prairieside for lost treasures.

After losing her daughter, LaDonna, to complications from Type I Diabetes in 1999 and her husband to a heart attack in 2001, she moved to Utah to be near her daughter and son-in-law, Laura and Dan Thompson. She loved being "GiGi" to her grand and great-grandkids: Dan Jr., Amber, Trisha, Bradley, Daimon, Jack, Kanyan, Zyan, Taelon and Raegan.

She is also survived by a half-brother, Austin Cook; her "other sister," cousin Freda (Miller) Rivers; and wonderful lifelong friends Ali Campbell and Glo Morris.

She was preceded in death by her husband; daughter, LaDonna; sisters, Mona Heath and Ruth Barnes; and a half-brother, LeRoy Cook.

Mrs. Ryles strength, resolve and spirit were unmatched. She suffered from rheumatoid arthritis (RA) for 26 years. It took its toll, but she always fought to overcome the obstacles it threw at her. The last few years of her life, she was in a wheelchair. The RA caused her to lose most of the use of her hands and legs. She suffered from debilitating heart and respiratory illnesses. Even though she could not do all of the things she could before, Saundra absolutely never thought of herself - and neither did anyone else - as disabled. She accomplished so much in spite of these challenges.

Some of her favorite travels were to California (or anywhere) with her husband, especially Monterey; Alaska cruising; Puerto Vallarta; Texas to see antebellum homes; Las Vegas; Lake Powell and she finally got to see the Irish and Scottish countryside. She lived in France for 10 days with her son-in-law, Dan, and daughter, Laura, and even got an ambulance ride to Paris. Her smile, sense of humor, shabby chic style and home cooking will be missed but she will remain in our hearts forever.

Ruby M. (Gorrell) Thomas



Ruby M. Thomas (nee Gorrell), 88, went home Feb. 7, 2017. Funeral services were Feb. 11 at Barborton First Church of Christ, Barborton, Ohio with Jason

Seiberling officiating. Private interment ceremony was April 6 at Greenlawn Cemetery, Akron, Ohio.

She was born Sept. 14, 1928 in Murray County, Oklahoma to D.N. Gorrell and Selina K. (nee Nail). She was proud of her Native American heritage.

She was known as "Chickasaw" on the CB radio. She was a member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary, NAICC, Grand Squares & Swinging Stars, and Warm-up Barborton. She worked for Excelsior Marking Products, Krinkle House, and Mature Services (then known as S.W.A.P) as a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles L. Thomas; her parents; brothers, General, Cecil, Henry and Dixson Gorrell; two infant sons; grandson, Stephan P. Thomas; granddaughter, Leigh Ann Kubala; step-children, Charlene and Thomas L. Thomas; daughter-in-law, Laura; and good friend, Lawrence Madigan.

She is survived by children, Sam Thomas, Gwen Adkins, Peter Thomas, Wyoma Bowyer (Ron), Ida Morehead (Bob), and James Bennett; step-children, Gloria Vallier (Fred), and David C. Thomas (Georgianne); daughter-in-law, Marie Claude Thomas; good friends, Sharon Thomas, Patty Bennett-Wyatt, Judy Wiley; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren who will miss her hugs and bright smile.

Sharon Faye Wilson



Sharon Faye Wilson, 63, of Ravia, Okla., passed away April 4, 2017 at Integris Baptist Hospital in Oklahoma City. Funeral services were April 8, 2017 at the First Baptist Church in Tishomingo, Okla., with Pastors Tony Poe, Randy Wade and Luke Holmes officiating. Interment followed in the Condon Grove Cemetery in Milburn, Okla.

She was born June 5, 1953 at Talihina, Okla., to Benjamin Miller and Lillian Marie (Culberson) Miller. She attended Ada Schools and later met and married Paul Wilson on August 2, 1969 at the Seeley Chapel Church at Connerville, Okla.

Mrs. Wilson worked for several years at the Johnston Memorial Hospital as a ward clerk and at Wal-Mart for a time. Most recently, she worked at the Chickasaw Nation Senior Site as a cook. She enjoyed fishing, camping and making cakes as her hobbies.

She was preceded in death by her father.

She is survived by her husband Paul Wilson, Sr., of the home; a son, Paul Wilson, Jr. and wife, Krissy, of Ardmore, Okla.; a daughter, Juhree Reid and husband, George, Jr., of Tishomingo; her mother, Lillian Miller; her siblings, Toni Leader, of Ravia, Ronnie Miller, of Ardmore, Bob Miller, of Mill Creek, Tommy Miller, of Ravia, Henry Miller, and Tammy Goodman, both of Durant, Okla.; her grandchildren, Jack Wilson, Cheyenne Wilson, Ciara Wilson, Abigail Wilson, Shelby Davis and McKayla Barnett; and other relatives and friends.

Casket Bearers were Bryan Samis, George Reid, Jr., Johnny Cobble, Alan Poe, Brian Anderson and Shannon Carter. Honorary Bearers were Ronnie, Bob, Tommy and Henry Miller, Dennis Johnson, "Hot Shot" Baken and Alex Walton.

Online condolences may be made at clarkfuneralservice.net



Kinsler Underwood, left, and Jagger Underwood showcased their medals at the Annual Children's Fair in Ada with Chickasaw Princess Julie Underwood.

Annual Children's Fair attracts 2,000 in Ada

ADA, Okla. – Almost 2,000 people came out April 1 to support Child Abuse Prevention Month at the Chickasaw Nation's 16th Annual Children's Fair at the Pontotoc County AgriPlex in Ada.

The free family-oriented event featured prizes, information booths, food, entertainment, rides, a petting zoo, balloon art, face painting, martial arts and many other activities throughout the day.

Attendees enjoyed performances by children from the Chickasaw Nation Child Development Center, Chickasaw Princesses, Chickasaw Nation Dance Troupe and more.

One of the featured events was the "Diaper Dash," a crawling race, with the youngest children competing in a dash competition

for the title of the fastest crawler award.

Several booths provided information regarding child abuse and neglect, ways to prevent child abuse and neglect and various programs to help families.

"Four children die per day in the U.S. as a result of abuse or neglect, but it doesn't have to be that way," Deanna Carpitche of Chickasaw Nation Prevention Services said. "There are many programs and people willing to help. Many of those programs had booths at the fair."

For more information about how to prevent child abuse and neglect, contact prevention services at (580) 421-8734 or visit www.chickasaw.net/prevention.

CONTRIBUTED BY Taylor Owen, Public Affairs.

Northern California Chickasaw Citizen Gathering



Governor Bill Anoatubby, second from left, and Lt. Gov. Jefferson Keel, far right, with Chickasaw Nation veterans and members of Chickasaw Nation Warrior Society at the Northern California Chickasaw Citizen Gathering in April in Sacramento, California.



Governor Bill Anoatubby visits with Nila Lachawicz and her sons Art, left, and Victor Lachawicz at the Northern California Chickasaw Citizen Gathering conducted last month in Sacramento, Calif. More than 1,500 Chickasaw citizens took part in the event. Information about programs and services, language preservation, tourism, interactive cultural activities and wellness screenings was featured at the gathering.

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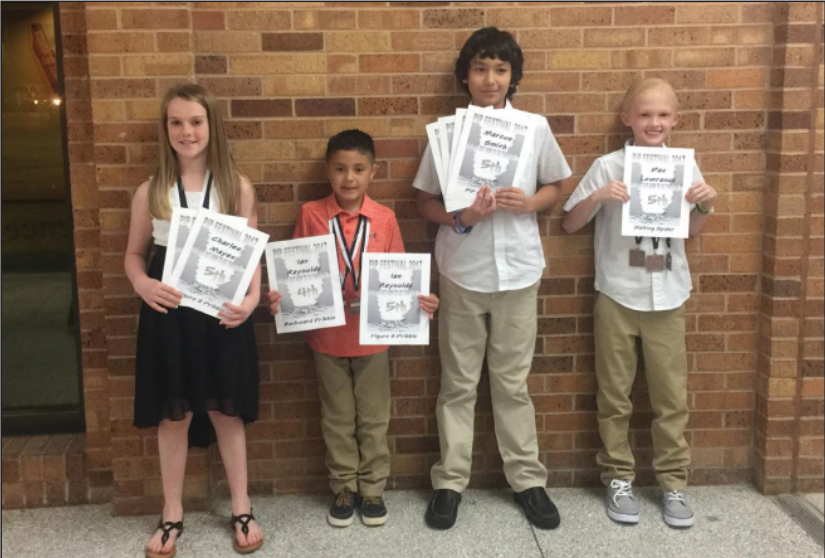
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the Chickasaw Nation

Chickasaw kids compete in Player in Progress Festival at Midwestern State University



More than 100 children from across the U.S. competed in the March 17-18 Player in Progress (PIP) Festival at Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, Texas. Sulphur, Okla., Chickasaw Youth Club (CYC) members Marcus Smith and Dax Lowrance and Tishomingo CYC members Charlee Mayes and Ian Reynolds placed in several competitions that featured basketball drills such as drop pass, walking spider, PIP lay-up, figure eight dribble and backward dribble.

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